

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should public school
students in the CNMI have
school uniforms?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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INSIDE



Free at Last

An American freed after nearly seven months jailed in North Korea left Pyongyang on Friday.

NATION...Page 10



Massacre

Authorities begin the gruesome task of identifying 72 South American migrants killed by drug gangs.

WORLD...Page 11



Twilight Mania

Is there something icky about moms lust after the boys of "Twilight"? Heck no!

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20



The question will represent a direct reflection of the will of the people of the Commonwealth in regards to the DOI's recommendations to the U.S. Congress.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

Nov. 2 election to include survey on Interior report

» Question
will be
separate
from ballot

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When voters go to the polls to elect a delegate on Nov. 2, they will also be asked about their position on the U.S. Department of the Interior's report recommending improved immigration status for foreign workers in the CNMI, officials said yesterday.

See
ELECTION
on Page 4

About 100 DPH personnel get work-hour cut notices



PEOPLE NEVER LEARN

Despite a sign asking the public not to throw their garbage in this area behind the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, piles of trash are still seen in the area yesterday afternoon. Many areas on Saipan have become illegal dumping ground, but no one has been fined for littering yet.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

» Administration anticipates backlog in operations

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About a hundred Department of Public Health employees received notices from the central government yesterday, notifying them that their work hours would be cut by 16 hours when the new fiscal year starts on Oct. 1.

See DPH on Page 4

Glaciers retreating in Asia

» Could impact water supplies for millions and cause flood conditions

Many of Asia's glaciers are retreating as a result of climate change.

This retreat impacts water supplies to millions of people, increases the likelihood of outburst floods that threaten life and property in nearby areas, and contributes to sea-level rise.

The U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, conducted a study of the region's ice fields.

See GLACIERS on Page 4

\$100,000 cash bail for alleged big-time 'ice' supplier. PAGE 2
CUC, OAG agree on new deadlines for stipulated orders. PAGE 3

Local

\$100,000 cash bail for alleged big-time ‘ice’ supplier

A \$100,000 cash bail has been set for the temporary liberty of Qun Yu, a suspected big-time supplier of methamphetamine or “ice” who managed to escape during pursuit on Aug. 4 but was arrested in Marpi on Wednesday.

In a hearing Thursday afternoon, Superior Court As-

sociate Judge David A. Wiseman increased Yu’s bail from \$50,000 cash to \$100,000 after learning that he has a pending criminal case.

Yu, 44, also known as Papasang, a Chinese national, appeared in court with attorney Stephen Woodruff, who is also the Yu’s lawyer in the previous case.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Thursday.

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Yu in Marpi after a concerned citizen called the Department of Public Safety and reported an Asian man in the area who seemed disoriented and dehydrated.

One of the responding patrol officers noticed that the man looked like the wanted Yu. Task force agents proceeded to the area and positively identified him.

During an Aug. 14 search of Yu’s residence, task force agents

reportedly seized over 540 grams or half a kilo of “ice.”

The agents arrested Yu’s girlfriend, Zhang Ling, in that operation. But Yu, who was reportedly armed with a .38-caliber pistol, fled on foot into the woods after their Toyota Land Cruiser rammed onto some trash outside a house in Chalan Kiya.

Court records show that Yu and another man were arrested in December 2007 for distributing methamphetamine or “ice” on Saipan.

Yu and the co-defendant allegedly conspired to deliver “ice” in exchange for money on Dec. 5, 12, and 14, 2007. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

3-percent retirement bonus for certain CNMI officials is found constitutional

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A law that granted lawmakers, judges, and all other elected government officials a 3-percent retirement bonus has been found constitutional.

In a ruling he issued Aug. 26 and made available yesterday, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja granted former representative Martin B. Ada’s motion for summary judgment on the 3-percent retirement bonus issue.

Naraja ruled that Ada is entitled to the 3 percent bonus for the years 2000 through 2003.

The judge also determined that Ada is entitled to 60 days of benefit payments for each of the years covered—from 2000 when Ada became an elected member of the Legislature to January 2008 when he retired.

The NMI Retirement Fund failed to pay Ada the 60-day benefit payments in each of these years.

The Fund filed the court action to determine the correct amount of Ada’s retirement benefits.

Ada, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, filed a motion for summary judgment. The Fund, through counsel Carolyn M. Kern, requested for judgment with respect to the remaining issues.

According to court documents, Ada began work as an employee of the Public School System in March 1978 and held various public employment positions up to September 1997, during which he made contributions to the Fund. In September

1997, he retired and began receiving retirement benefits from the Fund.

In January 2000, he left retirement to become an elected member of the Legislature. He then resumed making contributions to the Fund. That same month, his retirement benefits were discontinued.

When Ada ran for office in 1999, a 3-percent retirement bonus was in place for all elected officials pursuant to Public Law 6-41. The 3-percent bonus was repealed on Dec. 5, 2003, pursuant to P.L. 13-60.

In January 2008, Ada retired a second time after having lost his re-election bid.

In February 2008, the Fund administrator wrote Ada a letter outlining his benefits. The benefits did not take into account Ada’s time spent as an elected legislator nor any part of the 3-percent

statutory retirement bonus.

The Fund asked the court to review several provisions of the Retirement Act. Ada then filed the cross-motion for summary judgment.

During the hearing, the parties agreed that only one issue remained in dispute between the parties: whether Ada was entitled to the 3-percent bonus.

The Fund argued that the provisions of PL. 6-41 that created the 3-percent bonus for certain elected officials is unconstitutional when enacted and thus void “from the beginning.”

The Fund contended that members of the 6th Legislature had a conflict of interest at the time the 3-percent bonus provision was debated and voted on, rendering it null and void from the start.

Ada asserted that the 3-percent bonus was applicable to

him from when he first took office in 2000 to the date the statute was repealed in 2003—a total of four years.

In his order, Naraja said the 3-percent bonus was made applicable not only to the members of the Legislature who voted on it, but also to other government officials, including judges, the governor, the resident representative to the U.S. and others.

Thus, Naraja said, the Legislature was not the only body that benefited from the bonus.

On the “double dip” issue, Naraja said retirees who choose the five-year bonus are allowed to receive retirement pension in addition to salary (double dip) for 60 days of each fiscal year once they are re-employed by the government.

“Retirees who elect to retire under this provision and who subsequently become a member of the Legislature are entitled to receive 60 days of retirement benefits for each year they are in office,” said Naraja, citing a precedent case.

NEW EQUIPMENT

Helen Olbes of Island Business Systems & Supplies demonstrates the functions and care for the Canon networked photocopier printers to Saipan Southern High staff. Saipan Southern High School received the first of 40 networked photocopier printers by Canon for the Public School System. Provided by Island Business Systems & Supplies, all schools will receive the new units this school year. Saipan Southern High School had three units installed on its campus to better serve the growing needs of the students, staff, and teachers in the 2010-2011 school year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Barcina frets about oversized classrooms on Sept. 7

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the two public middle schools on Saipan expects a significant increase in its enrollment when classes open, resulting in higher students-to-teacher ratio and oversized classrooms come Sept. 7.

Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcina admits that the school is faced with challenges such as overcrowding as a result of higher enrollment numbers and a lack of classrooms for all its students.

“We will be faced with some challenges such as overcrowding, having about 35-39 students in the classroom...but

we anticipate getting support from central office to help address our school needs to run a smooth, safe, effective, and efficient operation,” said Barcina.

Overcrowding in schools results from either lack of classrooms, shortage of teachers, or extra high number of enrollees.

Hopwood accepts enrollees from nine elementary schools on Saipan. Last school year, it was home to 1,197 enrollees. On Sept. 7, it is expecting a total of 1,293 seventh and eighth graders. Yesterday was the school’s last day of enrollment.

The Chacha Oceanview Ju-

nior High School caters to Kagman, Tanapag, Capital Hill, and San Roque communities.

In a mass email to the community yesterday, Barcina said that the staff and management of Hopwood is excited to welcome back the students and their parents in the new school year 2010-2011.

“The Hilitai family is ready to welcome all its students despite the ongoing repairs and renovation that is going to be taking place all throughout the school year,” he said.

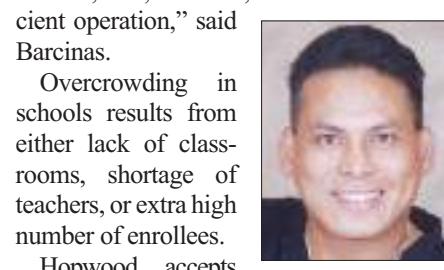
The Hopwood principal

asked the support and partnership with the students’ parents and teachers to ensure the learning goal for students.

Hopwood’s parent orientation is on Aug. 30, 2010, from 8am to 10am at the school’s stage area while a teacher tea party orientation is slated for all newly hired educators at Aqua Resort Club on Aug. 31, from 8am to 11am.

A special education training for teachers is also set at Saipan World Resort on Aug. 30-31, from 8am to 4:30pm, while the staff orientation will happen on Sept. 1-3, from 8am-12pm.

For more information, contact the school at 237-3421 or 237-3395.



Barcina

“Moreover, these additional comments were submitted because it is believed that many of the issues raised during the draft EIS process were not properly addressed or were simply ignored,” said the governor.

Camacho reiterated that the military buildup must not require any additional land outside of what has been proposed since 2006. “This is generally supported by our people. But recent discussions have indicated a change in this policy which is not compatible with our goal of having the Guahan Military Buildup Plan benefit those inside and outside the fence,” said the governor.

Camacho closed his letter by saying, “The people of Guahan understand the security needs of our nation, but those needs must be balanced with Guahan’s abiding responsibility to preserve our culture, protect our environment, and foster a better life for Guahan’s future generations.”

The FEIS comments can be viewed in their entirety on the Guam governor’s website at www.guamgovernor.net. (PR)

ON THE NET

www.guamgovernor.net

CUC, OAG agree on new deadlines for stipulated orders

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Office of the Attorney General have successfully negotiated what they described as "reasonable terms" for the completion of all deliverables related to the federal government's stipulated orders.

Abe Utu Malae, CUC assistant executive director for operation, disclosed yesterday that all parties hatched out a new agreement amending the original deadlines set for all SO requirements.

"One of the nice things about the recent stipulation hearing in front of Judge David Carter is that the OAG is now helping CUC to meet the stipulated orders," said Malae, adding that Attorney General Ed Buckingham and CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher were able to negotiate reasonable terms for the date of completion of the various deliverables.

The stipulated orders, issued

Farmers' meeting 'very successful'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera said the meeting for farmers, ranchers, and all other agricultural producers held Wednesday was "very successful" in that more than double the number of people they expected showed up.

According to Cabrera, they were expecting only about 30 farmers to attend the meeting but about 60 came and expressed interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new program for farmers and ranchers in remote areas.

In fact, Cabrera said one farmer, Asap Ogunomo, already had his application ready during the meeting and submitted it to Aileen Quitugua of the Guam Farm Service Agency who brought it back to Guam for further review.

Cabrera said that Quitugua flew to Saipan specifically to discuss and explain the new program, called Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

Authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act

in March 2009, set the requirements and deadlines for CUC to comply with the mandates of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. These orders represent an agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For the longest time, however, CUC has failed to meet each and every requirement on time, resulting in more penalties. The new agreement seeks to resolve these unresolved issues.

Besides the new deadlines, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the latest stipulation now requires the CNMI government and CUC to provide EPA with bimonthly reports on any federal funds or grants they use for any activities under the stipulated orders.

The first bimonthly report is due on Oct. 15 this year and may be submitted as part of the 60-day report required under the second joint stipulation entered

of 2008, it aims to provide aid to farmers and ranchers in remote areas by reimbursing them for a portion of the cost they incur to produce or market their product. It is intended for farmers and ranchers in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Virgin Islands, and the CNMI.

Cabrera expressed his appreciation to Quitugua, the Saipan Municipal Council, Division of Agriculture, and the NMC-CREES for facilitating the farmers' meeting.

For those who were not able to attend the meeting, Cabrera said they may inquire with the office of the Division of Agriculture in Kagman or call 256-3319.

The deadline for the RTPC program enrollment period is Sept. 10.

Cabrera urged all farmers and ranchers in the CNMI to avail of this opportunity, which would allow them to be reimbursed for up to \$8,000 of the cost of their agricultural supplies and the cost to transport their commodities.

Wednesday's meeting was organized by the Saipan Municipal Council, NMC-CREES, and the Farm Service Agency.



Malae

by CUC and the U.S. Justice Department's Environmental Enforcement Section. The bi-monthly report shall include information about the origin and amount of the funds, and the projects for which the funds are used.

A report on the status of the \$4.05 million grant CUC got from the U.S. Department of the Interior to address oil spill-related work is also expected of the utility agency by the end of this month.

Moving forward

Among the projects that are

Guam woman gets 24 months for ID theft

A female Guam resident who earlier pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft was sentenced Thursday to 24 months in prison, followed by a one-year period of supervised release.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood also ordered May Quichocho Perez to pay a \$100 special assessment fee and restitution in the amount of \$7,578.56, according to the statement issued by Alicia A. G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Perez pleaded guilty on Feb. 1, 2010. She admitted that between Sept. 13, 2009, to Sept. 25, 2009, she knowingly used a lost Bank of Hawaii Visa debit/ATM card belonging to another person. Perez used the card on 56 transactions and obtained goods and services worth over \$7,500 from different businesses.

Perez had prior convictions of multiple cases of forgery and theft, among other things, with the Superior Court of Guam.

The U.S. Secret Service investigated the case, which was prosecuted by assistant U.S. Attorney Marivic David. (PR)

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moving forward to date is the removal of used oil in Tank 104 in Lower Base, which is part of the SO requirements, Malae said.

"This project is moving along fine. We are trying to carefully dispose of grease and emulsion that is between the top layer of oil and bottom layer of water," he said.

CUC has placed seven projects under its priority list to en-

sure that target completion dates will be reached as expected. These projects are funded by the \$4.05 million grant CUC got from Interior.

Other funded projects are: the construction of a secondary containment, facility response plan, tank system integrity, removing used oil in Tank 104, work plans for power plants 1, 2, and 4, as well as fuel transfer

pipeline to power plants 1 and 2.

All these are in the process of being accomplished to date to prevent the agency from accruing additional penalties for non-compliance with EPA's requirements.

Under the requirements of stipulated order 1, CUC also needs to fill 17 critical posts identified by EPA; so far, only a few posts have been filled.

Man arrested for alleged threat to kill teen

Police arrested Wednesday night a 21-year-old man who was allegedly looking for a male teenager at an apartment in Fina Sisu and threatening to kill him.

Erwin Palacios Santos was still intoxicated when police officers arrested him for disturbing the peace, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said yesterday that a Tinian resident called DPS on Wednesday at 7:41pm to report a disturbance at the Fina Sisu Terraces.

Blas said preliminary investigation conducted by patrol officer Nobert Mettao showed that the victim's friends were at the Fina Sisu Terraces when Santos

came, looking for the victim.

Fearing for the safety of the victim, his friends went to NMC and informed the victim of Santos' threat.

Patrol officers proceeded to Fina Sisu Terraces and found Santos at the parking lot. He was arrested and detained at the Department of Corrections. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Military training on FDM, Warning Area-517

Santa Rita, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 30–Sept. 2, from 9am to 8pm. The Air Force will conduct training on Warning Area-517 Aug. 30–Sept. 3, from 7am to midnight.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to

replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (USN)

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MICRONESIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION REGULATORY MATTERS

DOCKET 09-3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] is directed by 4 CMC § 8421(a), to review Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation's [MTC] local rates to determine whether they are just and reasonable. MTC, doing business as IT&E, serves as the Commonwealth's incumbent local exchange carrier. The Commission is also directed by its enabling legislation to examine the adequacy of MTC's tariff, insurance and quality standards for services and facilities. Moreover, 4 CMC §8409(d) directs the Commission to review and approve any MTC divestiture of capital or contractual agreement, which may increase customer rates and charges. The Commission is further tasked by federal law to annually certify whether eligible telecommunications carriers, including MTC, who provide service within the Commonwealth, should receive federal high cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services. In order to facilitate this annual review, the Commission has crafted and posted on the Chamber's website a proposed administrative order, which would - effective October 1, 2010 - establish the protocol for this review.

In response to these statutory directives, the Commission's staff [Staff] has conducted a thorough review and is prepared to present its report to the Commission during the September 2010 regulatory session. In substantial measure, Staff's report is supported by MTC through three stipulations [DID Stipulation dated August 18, 2010; ETC Certification Stipulation dated July 15, 2010 and Quality of Service Stipulation dated July 15, 2010], which have been posted in this docket on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website [saipanchamber.com] for public review.

MTC and Staff support the Commission's approval of the revised MTC local exchange tariff, which is posted on MTC's website [pti.com/global/tariff] for public review. The revised tariff would make the following material changes to MTC's current tariff: 1. Change the credit establishment charge from \$100 for business and \$50 for residential customers to a charge equal to two months billing [generally reducing this charge]. 2. Require the return of customer deposits, with 4% simple interest per annum after 12 consecutive months without disconnection for non-payment. 3. Reduce the return check charge from \$50.00 to \$30.00. 4. Permit customer billing disputes to be initiated within 30 days instead of the current 15 days of bill presentation. 5. Institute a \$55 per hour [2 hour minimum] "out-of-hours" trouble isolation charge for service problems, which are the customer's responsibility. 6. Add pay telephone lines as a distinct service at the same charge as single line business basic service and add new \$2.00 rates for some coin features. 7. Re-write the lifeline and link-up service tariff section to conform with current FCC requirements. 8. Establish interim direct inward dial rates of \$25 per block of 100 DID numbers; \$30 per PBX trunk termination; and \$85 per PBX trunk; subject to further Commission review in the November 2010 regulatory session. 9. Add CentraNet service rates, which are currently being charged as untariffed rates and revise service terms and conditions. 10. Add network schematic drawings to identify private line service rate elements. 11. Delete reference to Commonwealth inter-island long distance service, which is provided without additional charge. 12. Add the following non-recurring private line installation charges: \$250 for dry lines, 9.6 Kbps lines and 19.2 to 56/64 Kbps lines; and \$450 for 125 Kbps to 11.544 Mbps lines. 13. Update the tariff language to make it consistent with generally accepted regulatory practices.

MTC and Staff have a material disagreement about whether MTC's local rates are just and reasonable. Relevant briefs, which present the parties' positions regarding this disagreement, are posted on the Chamber's website. Unless resolved, this disagreement will be presented to the Commission by argument and further proceedings at the public hearing noticed below. At issue is whether initial high level review proceedings of MTC's rate of return have produced preponderant evidence that its local rates are just and reasonable and, therefore, require no in-depth review at the present time.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commission will conduct a public hearing, which will commence at 1:00 p.m. on Friday September 17, 2010 at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's conference room in the Family Building Garapan to consider the above matters and to receive public comment regarding them. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC §8409(j) should on or before September 13, 2010 file with the Commission at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2010 at the Garapan office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

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Fitial signs Rota fishing, cockfighting laws

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed on Tuesday a public law lifting restrictions on tradition, non-commercial net fishing on Rota, and a local law that lowers the minimum investment for a cockfight.

US Attorney charges lawyer in money laundering scheme

Lawyer Danilo T. Aguilar has been charged with two felony counts of laundering of monetary instruments in a complaint filed in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands; the case is being transferred to the District of Guam for purposes of entering a plea and sentencing.

The complaint alleges that Aguilar, an attorney, deposited a check he received after responding to an email solicitation into his business account at the Bank of Guam. It was subsequently learned that the email solicitation was part of an international fraud scheme targeting attorneys, and the check was a forgery. Aguilar had transferred the

ing business from \$75,000 to \$5,000.

Fitial signed Rep. Teresita A. Santos's (Ind-Rota) House Bill 17-33, House Draft 1 into Public Law 17-13.

The new law amends section 3 of Public Law 12-14, or the Fair Fishing Act of 2000, to clarify that such regulations do not restrict the rights of per-

sons to engage in non-commercial net fishing.

It ensures that the definition of "non-traditional fishing methods" is not misinterpreted to include non-commercial net fishing, provided that the nets are at least 2 inches.

The allowed fishing nets on Rota

funds to a different bank and was already making withdrawals. Criminal charges were filed because it was discovered that Aguilar continued to make withdrawals of the funds even after he learned that the original check was fraudulent. The charges are based on the same essential facts that are the subject of a pending civil suit filed by the Bank of Guam in the Superior Court of Guam.

Alicia A. G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, stated "scams such as this are increasingly common, and the community should be very wary." She went on to say "this

case will hopefully serve as a warning to everyone, to be wary of con-artists operating through the internet, because involvement may cost you more than just money, it may also lead to criminal charges if you become aware of the fraudulent activity, but continue to participate."

The Internal Revenue Service is leading the investigation with the assistance of the U.S. Secret Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley will prosecute the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the complaint is only an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (PR)

Middle Road, Megabyte of Saipan, Subway Restaurants, and IT&E for entry forms. Tickets are sold at \$5 for audience and \$20 for gamers. For inquiries call Glimpses/Beach Road Magazine at 235-7645 for more details. To request for entry forms via email, write to saipan@glimpsesofguam.com. Gamers may sign up until Aug. 30. (PR)

Hopwood's important dates to remember

■ Aug. 30: Mandatory 7th & 8th &

a status similar to Freely Associated States citizens.

Press secretary Angel Demapan and lawmakers said the specific question to be asked about the Interior report "is still being formulated" as of yesterday afternoon.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the question could be as simple as, "Do you agree or disagree with the Interior report and recommendation?" She said voters could just check a box that says either "yes" or "no."

"But the question is still being finalized," she added.

Demapan said the administration anticipates that the question will be something to this effect "since the administration believes that deservedly, the will of the people should be heard."

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), and Reyes said there are changes being made to a bill amending the new election law, to give authority to the Commonwealth Election Commission to conduct the survey or exit poll.

They were referring to Rep. Eli Cabrera's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-104, which seeks to amend Public Law 17-11 to address the concerns of abuse and fraud during the elections.

This measure became law after the House and Senate overrode Fitial's veto of HB 17-66.

PL 17-11 allows for early voting, or voting 11 days period to Election Day.

Fitial vetoed the measure because he said the early voting process would allow for "voter intimidation, fraud, and would increase the cost of the election."

Lawmakers, in overriding the bill, said they will address the governor's

parents orientation from 8am to 10am at the stage area.

■ Aug. 31: Teachers' Tea Party orientation for all newly hired teachers at Aqua Resort at 8am-11am.

■ Aug. 30-31: Special education training for all affected teachers at World Resort at 8am-4:30pm.

■ Sept. 1-3: All HJHS staff orientation and in-service training at 8am -12pm. After, teachers are expected to prepare for the opening and others.

For more information, contact the school at 237-3421 or 237-3395. (PR)

concerns in a separate bill. They said they overrode the bill to ensure that local election laws conform with federal election laws, ahead of the Nov. 2, 2010, election in the CNMI.

Cabrera's bill also allows for a much earlier voting period for the Northern Islands to give the commission time to coordinate transportation to the Northern Islands with other government agencies at little or no cost.

Every election, the commission spends about \$11,125 to fly poll workers to the Northern Islands.

Under Cabrera's bill, the early voting period for the Northern Islands begins on the 46th day preceding the election and extends through the last day before the election.

"The administration is concerned about any and all costs incurred by the government in any way, shape or form. Thus, we always take the approach of seeking alternative options that will be less costly, but within the legal means," Demapan said.

In the Nov. 2 election, voters will not only elect a delegate, but will also vote on three legislative initiatives.

Besides Reyes, Tenorio and Basa, also present at the meeting with Fitial to discuss the election bill were Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan).

include throw nets or talaya, drag nets or chenchulun lagua, surround nets or chenchulun umesugon, or trap nets or chenchulun managam.

It clarifies that non-commercial fishing means fishing for personal or immediate family use, and that any sales or distribution beyond one's immediate family is a violation of law.

Fitial also signed Sen. Juan Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) Senate Local Bill 17-2, Draft 1 into Rota Local Law 17-8.

The new local law amends the Rota Cockfighting Law to lower the minimum investment for building a cockfighting business from \$75,000 to \$5,000, and to lower the right to an exclusive franchise from 15 to three years.

RLL 17-8 also provides for a \$50 incentive to members of the Rota Gaming Board for every scheduled meeting. The board regulates cockfighting and other games of chance on Rota.

GLACIERS

From Page 1

oration with 39 international scientists, published a report on the status of glaciers throughout all of Asia, including Russia, China, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.

"Of particular interest are the Himalaya, where glacier behavior impacts the quality of life of tens of millions of people," said USGS scientist Jane Ferrigno. "Glaciers in the Himalaya are a major source of fresh water and supply meltwater to all of the rivers in northern India."

As glaciers become smaller, water runoff decreases, which is especially important during the dry season when other water sources are limited. Climate change also brings warmer temperatures and earlier water runoff from glaciers, and this combined with spring and summer rains can result in flood conditions. The overall glacier retreat and additional melt can increase the amount of water dammed in the vicinity of a glacier, and the added pressure enhances the likelihood of disastrous outburst flooding.

While most glaciers in Asia are in recession, some glaciers have been found to advance. Some of the advancing glaciers are surge-type glaciers, which move forward more rapidly than average in a short period of time. The reason for this is being studied by glaciologists, and is likely due to unique and local condition.

Glacier studies in each area started at

different times depending on accessibility of glaciers and scientific interest. For example, the earliest description of glaciers in China was in 630 A.D., while studies in the Caucasus area of Russia began in the mid 1800s and modern studies in Nepal started in the 1950s.

The time period for retreat also differs among each glacier. In Bhutan, 66 glaciers have decreased 8.1 percent over the last 30 years. Rapid changes in the Himalaya is shown in India by the 12 percent retreat of Chhota Shigri Glacier during the last 13 years, as well as retreat of the Gangotri Glacier since 1780, with 12 percent shrinkage of the main stem in the last 16 years.

Glaciers in Russia and in the four republics once part of the Former Soviet Union have the largest area of glaciers in Asia, covering 30,478 square miles, which is about the size of South Carolina. The glaciers of China have the second largest area of glaciers in Asia, covering 22,944 square miles, which is about twice the size of Massachusetts. In Afghanistan, the more than 3,000 small mountain glaciers that occur in the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountains provide vital water resources to the region.

"This report was a collaboration between U.S. and foreign authors, the most knowledgeable glaciologists for each geographic region covered," said USGS scientist Richard S. Williams, Jr. "The USGS published historical and modern data authored by local experts. Some analyses of past climate conditions were conducted by studying ice cores from high-mountain areas of Asia." (USGS)

numerous areas.

The 16-hour cut will possibly be enforced by shutting down the administrative operation on Fridays, she added.

The DPH official admitted that some federal programs would also be affected by the austerity measure. She did not elaborate on this but said that reimbursement cost to Medicare may also decline.

"Our reimbursement cost keeps going down because we're cutting here and there...and we're losing jobs," she said.

Although she recognizes the cash-flow situation of the government, Muña believes that no substantial savings will be generated by including DPH personnel in the austerity measure.

She pointed out that, although DPH is approved a certain number of FTEs, not all positions are being filled and this is already considered a savings for the government.

DPH is still in state of emergency as a result of past findings about the hospital's poor services and condition, mainly due to lack of manpower. At present, it is addressing the concerns raised by the Medicare so it could continue to receive reimbursement for its services.

DPH received an average of \$8 to \$10 million annually in Medicare reimbursement.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Glimpses to hold GAMECON on Sept. 4

Glimpses will be hosting GAMECON and Back To School Expo 2010 at the Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel on Sept. 4. PC and console gaming enthusiasts will compete for a chance at winning more than \$3,000 in interesting prizes plus trophies and medals. Members of the audience also have a chance to walk away with instant door prizes.

Interested gamers can visit Glimpses/Beach Road Magazine office on

ELECTION

From Page 1

This question on the Interior report will be on a sheet separate from the ballot.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial met with lawmakers yesterday morning on his proposal to place a non-binding question before voters during the election.

Initially, the governor was looking at including the question about the Interior report on the ballot. But after yesterday's meeting, lawmakers and the administration agreed on a separate sheet for the Interior report question.

Fitial said the question will represent a "direct reflection of the will of the people of the Commonwealth in regards to the DOI's recommendations to the U.S. Congress."

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), who was among those who met with the governor, said the Commonwealth Election Commission will need at least \$2,000 to print the questionnaire.

Reyes said the Legislature already voiced out its opposition to the Interior report when it passed a joint resolution, but he said he does not have qualms if voters are directly asked for their opinion about the report. He said Interior did not consult with the CNMI government or the governor, as required by U.S. Public Law 110-229, before presenting its report to the U.S. Congress.

Among the options that the Interior recommended are conferring long-term foreign workers U.S. citizenship, conferring them permanent residency leading to citizenship, or granting them

Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, confirmed that the department's Human Resource Office, division directors, and unit managers handed the 30-day notices to affected personnel.

On the hospital side alone, Muña said that less than 50 are affected by the reduction-in-force.

Based on approved FTEs, the DPH has an estimated 350 employees. Top DPH officials were also issued the notices.

Exempted from the 16-hour work cut reduction are those directly dealing with patient care such as physicians and nurses.

Muña pointed out that the Fitial administration has provided DPH officials some authority to determine if certain personnel should be exempted or not from the measure.

She quoted the administration as saying, "If you find a person does not deserve to get the letter because you feel that the job is one of those exempted, we can resend it...provided there's justification."

When asked about the possible impact of the work-hour reduction, Muña admitted that they expect "backlogs" in

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NEW ARRIVAL

Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Mission accomplished?

Those who have lived through the Iraq war have never been certain whether they were at the beginning, middle or end of hostilities. Preparations for the U.S.-led invasion began well before the March 2003 launch of "shock and awe." American forces toppled Saddam Hussein within weeks, but rather than bringing an end to the combat as expected, the collapse of the regime and subsequent dismantling of the Iraqi army gave rise to an insurgency and brutal sectarian conflict. Now, as the United States formally concludes its combat role on Aug. 31, it is time once again to ask: What was the U.S. mission in Iraq, and what was accomplished?

Hussein was a ruthless dictator whose henchmen tortured the political opponents they didn't execute. He invaded Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990. He tried to build nuclear weapons, and he used chemical weapons against Iran as well as against his own citizens, killing at least 5,000 Kurds in Halabja alone in March 1988. All told, more than 180,000 Kurdish men, women and children were slaughtered in his Anfal campaign in the north. Meanwhile, the regime drained marshes and starved hundreds of thousands of Shiite Arabs out of the south. These were horrible crimes committed over decades, many of them long before President George W. Bush decided to seek a "regime change." But did they warrant a U.S. invasion?

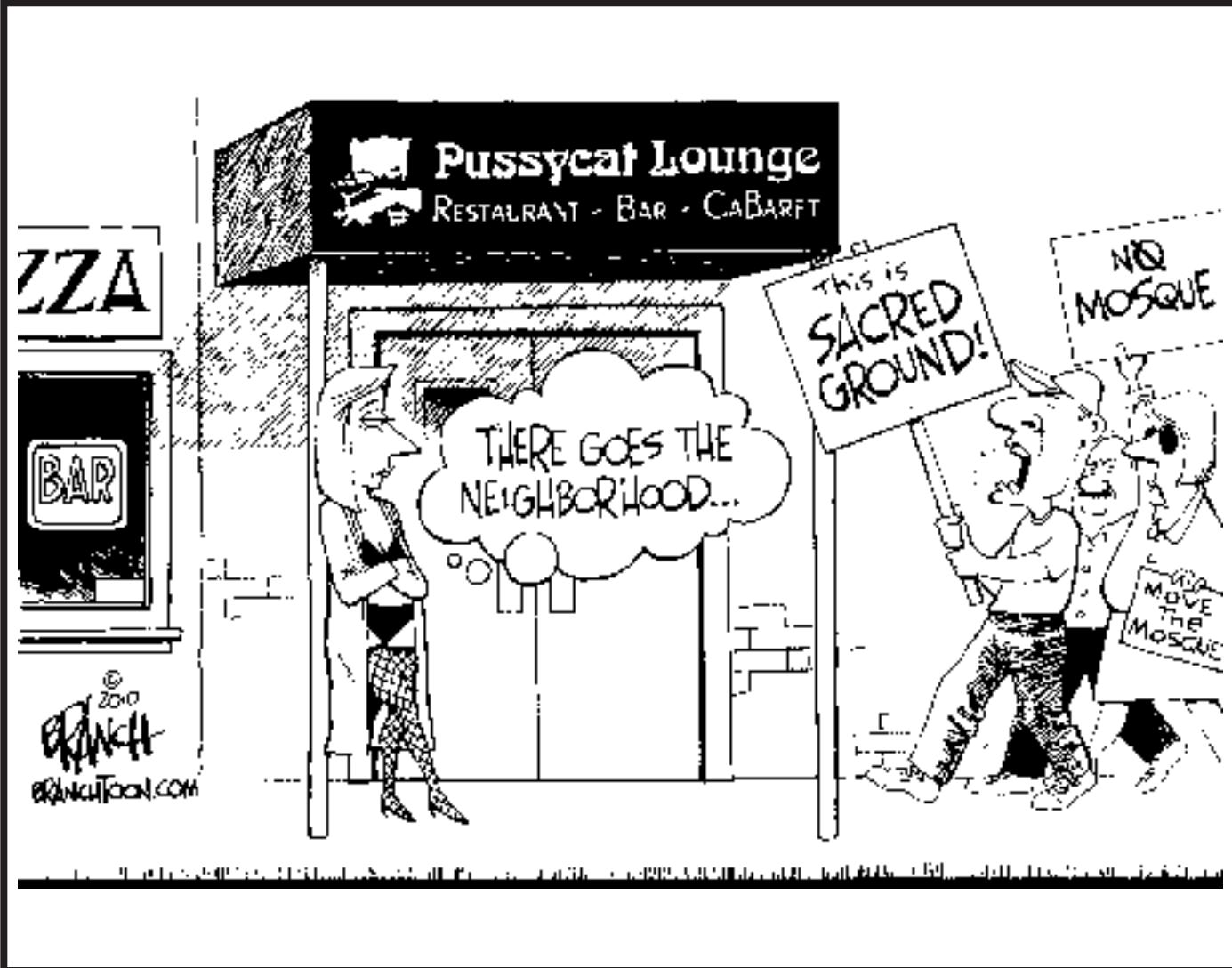
The Bush administration made the decision to go to war in Iraq in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks that were plotted by al-Qaeda from Afghanistan and carried out by Saudis, not by Iraqis. It offered many reasons for turning its sights on Iraq. First, Bush made the radical case that the attacks in the United States justified pre-emptive strikes against potential threats to Americans. He said it was necessary to disarm Hussein, who allegedly was hiding a program to develop weapons of mass destruction in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. The administration claimed a connection between Hussein and al-Qaeda and warned that Hussein could provide the terrorists with WMD. Neoconservative ideologues added that removing Hussein would open the way for a democratic government in Iraq and have a ripple effect throughout the Middle East—domino democracy—that would stabilize the region.

Opponents of the war ascribed other motives to Bush: He sought to "finish the job" for his father, who stopped short after driving Hussein out of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf War, or, as many Iraqis believed, he wanted to get his hands on Iraqi oil.

At least 4,415 American troops died in combat, and tens of thousands were wounded. Iraqi casualties have been harder to count. The Iraq Body Count's website puts the civilian death toll between 97,000 and 106,000; hundreds of thousands were wounded, and many others displaced, forced into exile. The Bush administration initially calculated that the war would run \$50 billion. Seven years later, the bill is tallied at \$750 billion, and nearly as much likely will be needed to tend to the physically and psychologically wounded service members who have returned. By any measure, the price has been high in blood and treasure, and in the damage to American moral authority.

From the beginning, we argued against the war, saying the administration had failed to prove that Hussein had WMD or a connection to the 9/11 perpetrators. Then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld famously responded to skeptics by asserting that "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." The administration pointed to suspect aluminum tubes and alleged mobile bio-laboratories, and went to war despite the

See MISSION on Page 7



Reshuffling the geopolitical order

Few matters generate as much consensus in international affairs today as the need to rebuild the world geopolitical order. Everyone seems to agree, at least in their rhetoric, that the makeup of the U.N. Security Council is obsolete and that the G-8 no longer includes all of the world's most important economies. New actors need to be brought in. But even if a retooled international order would be far more representative of the distribution of power, it is not clear whether it would be better.

Over the past half a century, a set of basic principles—the collective defense of democracy, nuclear nonproliferation, trade liberalization, international criminal justice, environmental protection, respect for human rights (including labor, religious, gender, ethnic and indigenous peoples' rights)—has been enshrined in international and regional treaties and agreements. Constructing this web of international norms has been slow and painful, with less overall progress and more frequent setbacks than some have wished for. Now the possible accession of countries such as Brazil, China, India and South Africa to the inner sanctum of the world's leading institutions threatens to undermine those institutions' principles and practices.

These countries are not just weak supporters of the notion that a strong international regime should govern human rights, democracy, nonproliferation, trade liberalization, the environment, international criminal justice and global health. They oppose the idea more or less explicitly.

Consider their positions on the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide. Brazil, India and South Africa are representative democracies that basically respect human rights at home, but when it comes to defending democracy and human rights outside their borders, there is not much difference between them and authoritarian China. And their ambivalence on so-called soft issues tends to go hand in hand with their recalcitrance on "harder" issues, such as nuclear proliferation. With the exception of South Africa, which unilaterally gave up the nuclear weapons it had secretly built under apartheid, Brazil, China and India today seem to oppose the international regime created by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1968.

One might say that in behaving in these ways, the emerging powers are acting no differently from the established powers, and that this is the best proof that they have come of age. But unlike the existing global players, they are not subject to the same type of pressure from vigorous and organized civil societies. Moreover, their discourse and conduct may seem to be as legitimate as those of the traditional powers, but they are in fact far more self-contradictory. On the one hand, the rising powers still see themselves as members of and spokespersons for the developing world; on the other hand, they are staking their reputations on having become major econo-

By JORGE G. CASTANEDA
Los Angeles Times

Jorge G. Castaneda, Mexico's foreign minister from 2000 to 2003, teaches at New York University and is on the board of directors of Human Rights Watch. A longer version of the article appears in the September/October issue of Foreign Affairs.



ic, military, geopolitical and even ideological powers, all of which not only distinguishes them from the rest of the Third World but also involves subscribing to certain universal values.

The stance of these countries on climate change illustrates this persistent ambivalence about what role they are ready to assume. Brazil, China and India are among the world's top emitters of carbon dioxide. In December, at the Copenhagen conference on climate change, they, along with South Africa, put forward a position that they said reflected the interests and views of "the developing nations." They called for assigning states' responsibilities for fighting climate change according to states' capacities. They are willing to reduce their own emissions, they say, but rich countries will have to do more.

This argument raises the question of whom these countries are speaking for and what role they envision for themselves. Do the emerging powers identify more with the rich polluters whose ranks they want to join, or with the poor nations, which are both potential victims of and contributors to climate change? The groups overlap (the rich nations also are victims, and the poor ones also pollute), and Brazil, China, India and South Africa have much in common with both groups, but they cannot be part of both at once. For now, these states seem to have chosen to side with the poor countries.

The ongoing discussion about whether emerging powers should be admitted to the helm of the world geopolitical order emphasizes the economic dimension of their rise and its geopolitical consequences. Not enough attention has been paid to the fact that they remain political and diplomatic lightweights. Given this, granting emerging economic powers a greater role on the world stage would probably weaken the trend toward a stronger multilateral system and an international legal regime that upholds democracy, human rights, nuclear nonproliferation and environmental protection.

Before a serious debate takes place within these countries regarding their societies' adherence to the values in question, it might not be such a good idea for them to become full-fledged world actors. Maybe they should deliberate more prudently over whether they really want to pay in order to play, and the existing powers should ponder whether they wish to invite them to play if they will not pay.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Aurelius Augustinus Hippoensis

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

That's Augustine of Hippo, the famed doctor of the Christian Church who, a thousand five hundred eighty years ago on Aug. 28, 430 CE, died in the Roman province of Africa (originally, *Ifriqiya* from where the continent's name came from). The Germanic Vandals of Europe were knocking at his city doors before he died; a year later, they took over the city and after 24 years, went on to sack Rome.

Raised as a Protestant in the lineage of English social conscience and Midwest American plains/prairie Methodist practicality, one would think that we couldn't care less about what a Roman North African bishop thought and did, but this giant of a figure is quoted by Calvin, Luther, and Wesley, not to mention the divines of the Anglican and Episcopalian communion. He belongs to humanity.

Augustine is said to have said: *In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas*—"in things necessary, unity; in things uncertain, liberty; in all things, charity"—an oft-quoted slogan within ecumenical circles. The phrase is found in Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Ad Petri Cathedram* (the Pope Speaks) used in defense of theological and religious freedom.

To Chamorros/Carolinians and Filipinos who converted into Catholic Christianity, the influence of the Jesuits and the Augustinians are indelible. Augustine and Aquinas are giants in both religious orders, Augustine as the heart with the big brain, and Aquinas as the brain with the big tummy! Today at *Matins*, OP monks and others may be chanting their hearts out for the man whose *Confessions* and dichotomy of the *City of God/City of Man*, influenced Christian orthodoxy for a thousand and a half years!

Loyola's Jesuits of the counter-Reformation came first to the Marianas through Fr. Sanvitores, replaced 101 years later by the Augustinians after the Jesuits' were expelled from virtually

every Catholic diocese for their penchant in manipulating political power, and their fierce and unquestioning shock-trooping allegiance to the Catholic pope against the rising nationalism of kingdoms and principalities. Nevertheless, Augustine sits as an unacknowledged guest in our dining tables and living room sofas, as well as the altars of our hearts, and the carrels of our minds. "So what?" one might ask. Fair enough.

We live in a time of extreme religious intolerance. The defense mechanisms of many ancient religions are reflexively striking back at what they perceive to be anti-religious biases of the secular, urban and scientific world of the 21st century. Unfortunately, they are lashing at each other; the discourse vitriolic and the attacks vicious. Even a cab driver in NYC gets stabbed for being Muslim, and the Cordoba Center, with its renaissance tradition harking back to the flowering of inclusive and tolerant Islam, is being identified with the militant mosques that inflamed 9/11.

Augustine's legacy includes two overarching concepts. The first is the idea of original sin, the human propensity to "not do what I ought to do, and do what I know I ought not to do," in the words of Paul of Tarsus. Western morality is built on this assumption. Social contracts like the U.S. Constitution are heavy on "protection from" and light on "freedom to." Fear and distrust trumps hope and good will; checks and balances are prerequisites to communal living.

Excommunicated Dominican friar now-Episcopalian monastic Matthew Fox's *Original Blessings* countered the fall-redemption orthodox theology and paid dearly for it, but his counterbalancing of an obvious overemphasis is finally getting accepted within Christian circles. With the all too evident human depravity in Augustine's heart, we remind ourselves that it was complemented by the doctrine of prevenient grace preceding the "fall" in the allegorical garden of Eden. This constitutes Fox' original blessing!

The second of Augustine's notions is that of "just wars," originally meant to right a wrong in the tradition of "an eye for an eye leaves everyone blind" rather than the more contemporary notion

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



of psychotic *jihad* and vengeful Armageddon. What began as a humanization of social conflict became a rationalization for frenzied genocide. Hope is etched on the flip side of Malthusian despair! War is no longer the province of lords and gentle folk but the arena of drones and atomic fission/fusion; it has changed considerably, yet the notion of just wars continues to serve parochial interests.

The gentle doctor whose vow of poverty skewed private ownership of material wealth including real estate is joined in the long history of monastic movements that also promoted another understanding widely misread: that a qualitative world in the midst of this world is a human option. Heaven, as a spatial metaphor from Africa, has become cosmology to many, albeit, numinous. We've lost the existential import of the reality and experience of spirit in the here-and-now. Much of the metaphorical language of ancient religions is lost when literalism is imposed on writ and creed. Immanence (in this world) and transcendence (metaphysics) have been the metaphor of spiritual life since Augustine. Yet, real estate ownership here or up in the sky was never a relevant issue. Transparency is the language of our time, and the authority of authenticity in the here-and-now is where the fullness of life resides.

Ah, that the intellect, tolerance and compassion of an Augustine were in our midst! We doff our cap to the doc even as we heed his words: *In necessariis unitas, in dubiis libertas, in omnibus caritas.*

Is a presidential run really in Palin's future?

From Alaska to Georgia, Sarah Palin has pursued a familiar political path this year, endorsing Republican candidates and picking up political chits.

Potential presidential candidates have done that in mid-term campaigns for more than a generation, often disclaiming any interest beyond helping their party or, in her case, the GOP women she calls "Mama Grizzlies."

"That's not where my focus is," she said recently when asked about 2012 on "Fox News Sunday."

She may have scored a notable success in helping oust Sen. Lisa Murkowski in Tuesday's Alaska GOP primary, but overall her record has been mixed. She helped Nikki Haley win the Republican nomination for governor of South Carolina but failed in a similar effort for Karen Handel in Georgia. One congressional backer of Handel's rival noted pointedly that Georgians could do "their own thinking on things like this."

But while the former Alaska governor often sounds and looks like a presidential candidate, her failure to pursue other aspects of the presidential playbook has created significant doubts about her intentions.

The consensus in the political community is that former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty will run in 2012. But it's sharply split on what Palin will do, though she'd almost certainly rank among the GOP favorites.

The arguments in favor of her running are obvious:

—She's the best known and most outspoken GOP opponent of President Barack Obama and, in a fairly drab field, the most

charismatic. She creates more enthusiasm among the faithful than potential rivals.

■ She can raise money more quickly than most, though she probably can't rival Romney, who spent \$35 million of his own in 2008.

■ Her base among religious conservatives would be an asset in Iowa's leadoff caucuses. So would her primary endorsement of the likely next governor, Republican Terry Branstad. Haley would be a strong ally in crucial South Carolina.

■ Unless a governor like Haley Barbour of Mississippi or Rick Perry of Texas runs, she'd do well in the Southern primaries that pick a significant proportion of GOP delegates. Though former House Speaker Newt Gingrich represented Georgia, it's unclear how Southern his political base would be.

■ If timing is everything, Palin might be smart to run while she's hot. In four years, the Republican field might include such newer stars as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and, if elected senator this year, Florida's Marco Rubio.

■ Obama remains likely to enter 2012 as a favorite for re-election. (Since 1892, Jimmy Carter is the only elected president who restored his party to the White House but then lost re-election.) Republicans might go with their heart on grounds they'd have little to lose.

But before awarding Palin the 2012 GOP nomination by acclamation, it's worth mentioning some reasons indicating she might not run.

■ Though supporters love her, there aren't enough. Polls show that most Americans consider her unqualified to be president.

By CARL LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via e-mail at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.



■ Georgia Rep. Jack Kingston's criticism of her Georgia campaigning is the tip of an iceberg of GOP establishment resistance. She might face tough going among the larger electorates of major industrial states.

■ It's unclear if Palin has taken steps to correct the ignorance she often showed in 2008 when discussing major issues. While she might be able to avoid most questions, the inevitable candidate debates would contrast her knowledge with some experienced, knowledgeable rivals.

■ She's done little to build the infrastructure for a presidential bid in the way several potential candidates have. Off-year campaigning provides an opportunity to test such organizations.

■ It's not clear she even wants to be president. It's a tough, 24-7 job, and she had enough of the far less taxing Alaska governorship after 2 1/2 years. Running for president, much less serving, is harder still.

So will she or won't she? Everyone's got a view; what's yours?

MISSION

From Page 6

opposition of most of its allies and without United Nations approval.

After the fall of Hussein, it quickly became clear that the administration had been seeing things it wanted to find rather than finding the truth. There were no WMD; no 9/11 plotters in Iraq. Bush had taken the country to war on false pretenses. The United States was not safer after the war, because there had been no imminent threat before it. Arguably, Americans were more at risk. Al-Qaeda exploited Iraqi resentment of U.S. troops, who were viewed as occupiers rather than liberators by much of the Muslim world. Abuses committed by U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib prison fanned anger and anti-Americanism. Though Al-Qaeda was not a force in Iraq before the war, it was after. And rather than stabilizing the region, the war shook a strategic balance. Hussein's Sunni regime had served as a

useful if unsavory counterweight to the Shiite government of Iran.

After the invasion, Tehran began to hold sway over the Shiite majority that rose to power in Iraq, as U.S. prestige dimmed with its failure to deliver security, electricity and stability. We supported the U.S. troop "surge" as a way to pacify the country, allow an Iraqi government to assume power and bring an end to the war. But the country is still unstable. Now, as the U.S. draws down its forces, its influence is waning, and Iran is just one of the neighbors jockeying to fill the void.

Hussein was captured, tried in an Iraqi court and hanged. Iraqis today have greater freedoms of expression and political organization, markedly free and fair elections, and a more open economy. And yet they have traded Hussein's well-ordered tyranny for the chaos of sectarian violence—quotidian bombs, assassinations and civilian bloodshed.

Democracy has not taken firm root in Iraq, let alone spread across the Middle East as the neoconservatives predicted. This spring's election produced a deadlocked parliament that has been unable to

form a new government; Shiite leaders don't agree with one another on a leader, much less with Kurds and Sunnis. Seven years after the fall of Hussein, they have yet to figure out how to share power, land and the country's oil wealth.

So while many Iraqis say they are relieved the Hussein regime is gone, others say toppling the dictator wasn't worth the pain, and some even long for another strongman to restore calm. Many Iraqis and Americans fear the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops will not mark the end of the Iraq war serve as the prelude to a civil war that spills over borders and throughout the region. That would be a colossal disaster.

Iraq may recover. Its sectarian communities may overcome centuries of distrust and violence and find a way to unite the nation. But if they do so, it will be to the credit of the Iraqi people, and will be despite the U.S. occupation, not because of it. The war can be considered a victory in just one sense: It removed Hussein. In all other respects, the war in Iraq was a misadventure that compromised U.S. national interests, and was too costly for too little return.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▾78°

▲87° ▾78°

▲87° ▾78°

▲87° ▾78°

▲87° ▾78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲61	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Sunny	▲84	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼76
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼52
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲90	▼67
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼49
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲84	▼75
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲86	▼68

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Saipan Harbor		Today	6:04 AM	6:33 PM	Today
3:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	Sunday	9:08 PM
9:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	Monday	9:18 AM
3:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	Tuesday	10:35 PM
9:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	Wednesday	11:08 AM
		Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM	Wednesday
		Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM	Thursday
		Monday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Friday
		Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM	Saturday
		Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM	Sunday

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

■ E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.

■ Fax: (670) 235-3740

■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center,

Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM		GUAM-ROPA (ROP)		SAIPAN-GUAM		GUAM-SAIPAN	
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA				NAGOYA-SAIPAN			

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish

Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish

Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish

Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English

Monday and Tuesday: 6am Chamorro

Wednesday: 6pm English

Thursday: 6am Chamorro

Friday: 6am English

Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog

Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am

Monday-Friday: 7pm

Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass

Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament

Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass

Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm

Thursday: day off

Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm

Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass

Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish

Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian

(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm

Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7:9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm

As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting

6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church

(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan

Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9:11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan

Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan

English Worship Service: 9:10-30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9:10-30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry

Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church

Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisi Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)

Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisi FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center

Sunday School: 9:9-30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church

Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm-10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ

Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church

(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan

(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church

(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan

Faith Center

Phone 234-0209

New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian

Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am
Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Business

Toyota recalls 1.33 million Corollas, Matrixes

the engine from starting or could cause harsh shifting or an engine stall.

Separately, General Motors Co. is recalling 200,000 Pontiac Vibes in North America due to the same problem, GM spokesman Alan Adler said. The Vibe is similar to the Matrix and was built under a joint venture between Toyota and GM at a now-closed factory in Fremont, Calif.

Both automakers said they will replace the engine control modules on the recalled vehicles at no charge. The companies will begin mailing notifications to owners of the affected vehicles in mid-September.

The engine control module with the possible defect was manufactured by Delphi Corp., a large auto parts supplier headquartered in Troy, Mich., according to documents filed with federal regulators.

The automaker has been more aggressive in its pace of recalls in recent months. Its last recall was in late July, when the automaker said it would fix half a million cars, mostly Toyota Avalon sedans, over a steering issue.

Salmonella find links 2 Iowa farms to egg recall

WASHINGTON (AP)—Food and Drug Administration officials say they have found positive samples of salmonella that link two Iowa farms to a massive egg recall.

Investigators found salmonella in chicken feed at Wright County Egg that was used by that farm and also Hillandale Farms, the FDA said. Authorities also found additional samples of salmonella in other locations at Wright County Egg. More than 550 million eggs from the two farms were recalled this month after they were linked to salmonella poisoning in several states.

One of the positive samples for salmonella was found in an ingredient sold to Wright County Egg from a third party supplier, Central Bi-Products, according to Wright County Egg, raising new questions as to whether other egg farms also could have received contaminated feed. FDA officials so far have said they don't believe the outbreak will expand beyond the two farms.

Also Thursday, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there could now be as many as 1,470 illnesses linked to the outbreak, about 200 more than previously thought.

"We will work with FDA as they expand their review of feed ingredients purchased from outside vendors for our farm, as well as for their ongoing review of our farms," said the Wright County Egg statement attributed to unidentified company officials.

Sherri McGarry of the FDA's

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Mayor seeks to calm cabbie, NYC after knife attack

NEW YORK (AP)—A Muslim cab driver whose face and throat were slashed in a suspected hate crime attack appeared with Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Thursday as city officials sought to ease tensions in the debate over a plan to put a mosque near the site of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Meanwhile, investigators sought to unravel contradictions in the life of the suspect, a baby-faced college student who had traveled to Afghanistan with a group that seeks to promote interfaith understanding. The Bangladeshi driver, Ahmed H. Sharif, said the proposed mosque and Islamic center north of the World Trade Center site did not come up in his conversation with the passenger accused of using a folding knife to slash his neck and face after asking whether he's a Muslim.

Sheriff's deputy fatally shot near AZ-Utah border

FREDONIA, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities are pursuing a man they say fatally shot a Utah sheriff's deputy near the Arizona-Utah border. A Coconino County, Ariz., sheriff's spokeswoman says authorities were chasing a 23-year-old man on foot when he shot a Kane County, Utah, sheriff's deputy with a high-powered scope rifle Thursday afternoon. Coconino County authorities announced hours later the deputy had died. The deputy's name was withheld pending notification of family. Coconino County spokeswoman Valerie Ausband says the incident began around 2:20 p.m. about three miles east of Fredonia, a small Arizona town just south of the Utah border. Ausband says multiple agencies including the U.S. Marshals Service have joined in the pursuit of the suspect.

Remains on Oregon peak belong to missing climbers

PORLTAND, Ore. (AP)—The Oregon State Medical Examiner's office has confirmed two bodies recovered from Mount Hood are the remains of climbers missing and presumed dead since December. Clackamas County sheriff's spokesman Jim Strovink says the remains are those of 29-year-old Katie Nolan of Portland, and 25-year-old Anthony Vietti of Longview, Wash. He said Thursday evening the medical examiner has not yet determined the cause of death. A Portland Mountain Rescue team discovered a second body early Thursday while trying to recover remains spotted a few days earlier. Strovink says the bodies were found near each other but were not in a snow cave or shelter. They were found at about the 9,700-foot level. Nolan and Vietti were in a party of three reported missing during an attempt to climb the 11,239-foot peak on Dec. 11. Searchers found one climber, Luke Gullberg of Des Moines, Wash., dead from hypothermia on Dec. 12.

NKorea releases American imprisoned since January

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Looking gaunt but relieved, an American freed after nearly seven months jailed in North Korea left Pyongyang on Friday in the company of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Aijalon Gomes, 31, hugged Carter just before they boarded a plane at Pyongyang's airport, footage aired by broadcaster APTN in North Korea showed.

Carter had flown to the North Korean capital three days earlier on a rare private mission to negotiate Gomes' release.

The former president "courteously requested" a special pardon for Gomes, which leader Kim Jong Il granted, North Korean state media said. Gomes had been sentenced in April to eight years of hard labor and a hefty fine for trespassing and committing a "hostile act."

They were due to arrive in Boston on Friday to be reunited with Gomes' mother and other family members, Carter spokeswoman Deanna Congileo said in Atlanta.

In Washington, the State Department welcomed the news of Gomes' release.

We "are relieved that he will soon be safely reunited with his family," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said. "We appreciate former President Carter's humanitarian effort and welcome North Korea's decision to grant Mr. Gomes special amnesty and allow him to return to the United States."

North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency said Carter's visit included cordial talks with North Korea's No. 2 official, Kim Yong Nam.

Kim relayed Pyongyang's interest in



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, center, and Aijalon Gomes, right, prepare to leave North Korea from Pyongyang, on Friday August 27, 2010.

resuming the six-nation disarmament talks and reiterated the regime's commitment to denuclearization, KCNA said.

However, there was no indication that Carter met with Kim Jong Il, who was making a surprise trip to China during the rare visit by an American

dignity to the North Korean capital. A year ago, Kim sat down for talks and a well-publicized photo with former U.S. President Bill Clinton when he went to Pyongyang on a similar journey to negotiate the release of two American journalists.

The U.S. and North Korea fought on opposite sides of the 1950-53 Korean War and do not have diplomatic relations, but Carter is well-regarded in North Korea after making a groundbreaking trip to Pyongyang in 1994 to meet with Kim's father, late President Kim Il Sung. Those friendly talks led to a landmark nuclear disarmament pact.

Aijalon Gomes (pronounced EYE-jah-lahn GOHMS) was the fourth American arrested in North Korea for illegal entry in a year when he was seized in January, accused of crossing into North Korea from China.

Besides journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee, also sentenced to hard labor and released last August on a special pardon, activist Robert Park deliberately crossed into the country last Christmas and was expelled by North Korean authorities about 40 days later.

Gomes' motive was not clear but he was said to be a close friend of Park and was photographed in Seoul rallying for Park's release just two weeks before his own arrest in North Korea.

In April, North Korean authorities sentenced Gomes to eight years of hard labor and fined 70 million won—more than \$600,000—for trespassing and committing a "hostile act." Gomes "admitted all the facts," state-run media said.

Last month, North Korean media reported that Gomes tried to kill himself, "driven by his strong guilty conscience, disappointment and despair at the U.S. government that has not taken any measure for his freedom," and was hospitalized.

Army ending its GED program for aspiring soldiers

FORT JACKSON, S.C. (AP)—The Army is ending a program that helped nearly 3,000 high school dropouts earn high school equivalency certificates and become soldiers.

The GED pilot program known as the Army's prep school started here in summer 2008, when the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan left the service scrambling to find soldiers. But since then, with the economy in a downward spiral and jobs hard to come by, more people with diplomas have been enlisting.

In 2008, 82.8 percent of people who enlisted for active duty were high school graduates. That number jumped to 94.6 percent in 2009.

"We're a victim of our own recruiting success," said Col. Kevin Shwedo, deputy commander at Fort Jackson, the Army's largest training installation.

Recruits who were in the program's

last class and have been in basic training for about five weeks said they were grateful to squeak through.

"If it weren't for the program, I'd still be a shift manager at McDonald's," said Kristi Garcia of Alice, Texas.

Cradling an M-16 between practice rounds on the shooting range, the 25-year-old married mother of two said she quit high school as a senior after having a child, and put earning a living ahead of schoolwork.

Then, she said, her grandmother died and she realized she wanted more out of life. She decided on the military, but the Marines told her she had too many dependents to enlist. Then an Army recruiter told her about the chance to earn her GED through the Fort Jackson program and got her enrolled.

Two weeks of classwork to brush up on her math and some early morning

physical drills later, she passed the GED test and was headed to basic training.

Garcia said she was sorry to see the program end, since it means an opportunity others won't get unless they stay in high school and earn a diploma.

Shwedo said the GED program could be resurrected within months if recruiting slumps again when the job market improves.

He said it gave a chance to a broad mix of individuals who had scored in the top half of the Army's academic entry tests. They often told hard-luck stories of lost jobs, illnesses or broken families that forced them to leave school before earning their diplomas.

They have gone on to a variety of jobs in the Army, such as the infantry, engineering, military police, computer and mechanical positions.

Soldiers who went through the pro-

gram have held up fairly well, said Army spokeswoman Constance Shaffery. About 11.6 percent left before a two-year term of service was up, compared with 16 percent who earned GED certificates on their own and then enlisted. About 9.4 percent of soldiers with traditional high school diplomas left before two years.

Army recruiters now tell potential recruits that their chances of getting into the service are not good if they don't have a high school diploma, Shaffery said.

For 20-year-old Jayson Reimers of Seattle, who had a young son to support, the GED program was a ticket out of a dead-end part-time mall job. The teachers helped him brush up on subjects he missed when he dropped out of school as a senior, and he passed the GED test on his second try.

it was delayed.

"Then they came back on the intercom, sounding surprised or in shock, and said 'I'm not sure how to tell you this, but the wheels caught fire upon landing and the emergency slides had been deployed,'" Vanatta said.

Vanatta ran to the window to see what happened and saw passengers standing on the runway near the plane, surrounded by fire trucks.

"My friend and I were able to rebook to a flight out of Oakland, so we're driving there now," he said. The incident was being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Tires of plane catch fire during landing in Calif.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The tires of a JetBlue airplane caught fire Thursday during a hard landing in Sacramento that left 15 people with minor injuries and sent passengers down emergency slides to escape the aircraft.

Passenger Michelle McDuffie said people onboard felt a thud when the plane touched down after a flight from Long Beach, but nobody thought there was an emergency until the crew shouted for everyone to exit on the inflatable slides.

McDuffie saw the burning tires when

she was on the ground.

"I thought, Oh I wish I had gotten my bag off. But I was just happy that I wasn't hurt," said McDuffie, 33, of Mission Viejo.

The plane appeared to experience trouble with its brakes, the airline said in a statement.

The 87 passengers were taken to the terminal by buses, said airport spokeswoman Gina Swankie, who couldn't immediately confirm how many tires had blown on the plane.

The nature of the injuries weren't immediately available, but five people were taken to a hospital, Swankie said. An elderly woman was seen being loaded onto a stretcher, complaining of neck pains.

Everyone was "able to slide down that slide and walk over to our triage," Sacramento Fire Department Capt. Jonathan Burgess said.

Rob Vanatta, 32, was waiting for the Jetblue flight when someone announced on the terminal intercom that

Asia

Pakistani Taliban hint at attacks on aid workers

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—The Taliban hinted they may launch attacks against foreigners helping Pakistan respond to the worst floods in the country's history, saying their presence was "unacceptable." The U.N. said it would not be deterred by violent threats.

The militant group has attacked aid workers in the country before, and an outbreak of violence could complicate a relief effort that has already struggled to reach the 8 million people who are in need of emergency assistance.

Pakistani Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq claimed

Thursday that the U.S. and other countries that have pledged support are not really focused on providing aid to flood victims but had other motives he did not specify.

"Behind the scenes they have certain intentions, but on the face they are talking of relief and help," Tariq told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. "No relief is reaching the affected people, and when the victims are not receiving help, then this horde of foreigners is not acceptable to us at all."

He strongly hinted that the militants could resort to vio-

lence, saying "when we say something is unacceptable to us, one can draw one's own conclusion."

U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes said the U.N. remained committed to helping flood victims in Pakistan.

"We will obviously take these threats seriously as we did before, and take appropriate precautions, but we will not be deterred from doing what we believe we need to do, which is help the people of Pakistan ... who have been affected by the flood," he told a news conference at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Mystery surrounds NKorean leader's trip to China

CHANGCHUN, China (AP)—Mystery surrounded North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il on his strangely timed visit to China while former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was in North Korea winning the release of an imprisoned American.

Kim's Thursday trip to China was his second in three months—unusual for a man who never flies and travels only

by armored train. It has not been announced by either country.

That has led to speculation by South Korean media and regional analysts that he may be seeking Chinese aid following flooding in his impoverished country's northwest—and could be laying the diplomatic ground work for the succession of his son, who is thought to be traveling with him.

Afghan president questions US timeline for leaving

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—President Hamid Karzai on Thursday criticized the U.S. plan to begin withdrawing troops starting next July and said the war on terror cannot succeed as long as the Taliban and their allies maintain sanctuaries in Pakistan.

Karzai's statements were made during a meeting with visiting U.S. congressmen

and come at a time when the Obama administration is ratcheting up pressure on the Afghan leader to do more to stamp out corruption. The Afghan government maintains that the U.S. should be doing more on other fronts, including pressuring Pakistan to shut down the insurgent sanctuaries.

A statement by Karzai's office said the Afghan leader told

the U.S. delegation that significant progress had been made in rebuilding the country after decades of war.

But he said the campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaida had faltered because of ongoing civilian casualties during NATO military operations and a lack of focus on "destroying the terrorists' refuge" across the border.

ASIAN BRIEFS

603-pound Thai woman leaves home after 3 years

BANGKOK (AP)—A 603-pound (274-kilogram) woman believed to be the heaviest in Thailand left her apartment for the first time in three years Thursday with the help of Bangkok city hall and a forklift. Neighbors of 40-year-old Umuayporn Tongprapai contacted the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority when they learned she needed medical attention to remove a tumor in her right leg. Bangkok's media-savvy governor Sukhumphand Paribatra summoned camera crews to document the event, which involved engineers, demolition crews, rescue workers, doctors and nurses. Seated on the floor of her modest third-floor apartment on the outskirts of Bangkok, Umuayporn told reporters she could only walk a few feet (meters) on her own and was confined to her studio apartment where she ran a laundry service with the help of her two adopted sons.

21 suspected militants go on trial in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Twenty-one suspected Islamist militants went on trial Thursday on charges of plotting attacks on foreign aid workers and others in Indonesia's Aceh province following a deadly tsunami. The defendants, who appeared in eight separate trials at the West Jakarta District Court, are among more than 100 suspects who have been rounded up

or killed after the discovery of a new terror cell in February. Prosecutors said the defendants set up a military training camp in Aceh to prepare to fight "infidels." "Their targets were foreign workers," said Feritas, who represents the state in several of the cases. He said the men believed relief workers who poured into the region after the 2004 tsunami were guilty of proselytizing.

Indians remember Mother Teresa on birth centennial

CALCUTTA, India (AP)—Hundreds of nuns, bishops and volunteers attended a Mass on Thursday marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mother Teresa, the selfless nun who dedicated her life to serving the sick and poor in India. School children, tourists and volunteers, some carrying bunches of flowers or candles, also crowded Mother Teresa's grave in the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, the order of nuns she founded in 1950 in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta. Special feasts to feed the poor, a festival of films on her life and work, the launch of a new train called the Mother Express, and interfaith prayer meetings were among events planned to mark the yearlong anniversary. "Her life and work continue to be an inspiration for the young and the old, the rich and the poor, from all walks of life, religions and nations," said Sister Mary Prema, the nun who now heads the Missionaries of Charity.

World



The bodies of 72 men and women that were allegedly killed by the Zetas drug gang are seen inside an abandoned warehouse in the town of San Fernando, just 100 miles from the Mexican border with the U.S. near the city of Matamoros, Mexico, Wednesday Aug. 25, 2010.

Mexico starts identifying 72 massacred migrants

SAN FERNANDO, Mexico (AP)—Working under heavy security in a region controlled by a brutal drug gang, authorities and diplomats began the gruesome task Thursday of identifying 72 Central and South American migrants killed just 100 miles from their destination—the U.S. border.

The government's chief security spokesman said it appeared the migrants were slain after refusing to help the gang smuggle drugs. "The information that we have at this moment is that it was an attempt at forced recruitment. That is to say, it wasn't a kidnapping

ping with the intent to get money, but the intention was of holding these people, forcing them to participate in organized crime—with the terrible outcome that we know," Alejandro Poire said in an interview with W radio.

Marines guarded the pink, one-story funeral home where the bodies were taken after being discovered on a ranch Tuesday, bound, blindfolded and slumped against a wall.

A funeral home employee, who like most people in San Fernando was too frightened to give his name, said the dead were stored in a refrigerated

truck in the parking lot, where flies buzzed over white powder spread over bloodstains.

The victims of what could be Mexico's biggest drug-gang massacre were trying to reach Texas, traversing some of Mexico's most dangerous territory. The lone survivor said the assassins identified themselves as Zetas, a drug gang that dominates parts of the northern state of Tamaulipas.

"This is frightening. It's horrible," said a tortilla stand worker in San Fernando, a crumbling colonial town of about 30,000 people on Mexico's east coast.

Oil-rich but candlelit Nigeria seeks power upgrade

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—When the sun sets in Nigeria, candle flames dance against the darkness, flashlights bob down empty streets and thousands of diesel generators cough to life.

This nation has more than enough oil and natural gas to satisfy its energy needs, but its power grid is a wreck, reaching

less than half the population even on a good day. To frustrated Nigerians, the initials of the state-run electricity provider, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria—stand more aptly for "Please Have Candles Near By."

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan vowed Thursday

to set things right by expanding, repairing and privatizing the system—a hugely important issue for the nation of 150 million, with presidential elections scheduled for early next year. He made the announcement in a luxury Lagos hotel powered around the clock by diesel generators.

WORLD BRIEFS

Suriname president falls ill, cedes power to No. 2

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP)—Suriname's newly elected president, former dictator Desi Bouterse, is ailing from an undisclosed illness and has temporarily ceded power to his vice president in the South American country. Vice President Robert Ameerali announced Thursday in Parliament that he will be in charge until Sept. 2 while Bouterse rests at home. He refused to disclose more specifics about the illness, saying only that the 64-year-old president "is doing well and no one needs to worry." A terse statement from the Cabinet said just that Bouterse is "sick." Bouterse has not been seen much since his swearing-in ceremony earlier this month. An Aug. 17 Cabinet meeting in Paramaribo was his last public appearance. Speculation in Paramaribo is widespread that Bouterse has fallen ill from dengue fever, a potentially serious mosquito-borne virus that is reaching epidemic stages across the region.

Bin Laden's bodyguard warns of escalation in Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—A former bodyguard of Osama bin Laden warned of an escalation in fighting between al-Qaida and Yemeni authorities and predicted the government would need outside intervention to stay in power. Nasser Ahmed al-Bahri told the Associated Press late Wednesday that recent attack by al-Qaida in southern Yemen was an indication of its increasing strength. U.S. officials have said that the CIA now sees al-Qaida's branch in Yemen as a greater threat to the United States than its parent organization hiding out in Pakistan. "I expect that the confrontations will escalate and will reach an open war between the government and al-Qaida fighters," he said, adding that U.S. forces may have to intervene to keep the terror network from triumphing.

and violence. It's working, but like the peace process itself, it is under strain amid looming budget cuts. "We're just keeping our heads above water," said Martin Larkham, 52, a youth work manager. "Everybody is." Tough times are hitting promising initiatives like Links—and causing unease about the very fate of Northern Ireland's peace deal. As the troubled territory slogs through the worst economic downturn in decades, dissident Irish nationalist militias are getting increasingly restless—carrying out a string of violent acts including a recent bombing that injured three children.

Attacks raise concerns in Northern Ireland

LURGAN, Northern Ireland (AP)—Bursts of laughter. Young men playing ping pong. Battles of the bands. In a Northern Ireland determined to put conflict behind it, the Links teen center bridges the divide between Catholic and Protestant teens in this struggling town, giving them something to do, an alternative to streets that offer a toxic mix of drugs

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, August 28, 2010

Yelled at and scolded, guest workers' group leaders press on with mission

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As a student in Dhaka City, Bangladesh, Rabby Syed said he has always been involved in student activism. When he arrived on Saipan in 1997, Syed said he continued to stand up for what's right—this time for the rights of guest workers.

Syed, president of the United Workers Movement NMI, told *Saipan Tribune* that his determination to defend workers' rights was reinforced when he enrolled for a film course at the Northern Marianas College, where he became friends with different ethnic groups.

"We have to do something significant in our lifetime to complete us as humans," said Syed.

According to Syed, he also got in-

spired by Bonnie Sagana and Irene Tantiado who are also staunch advocates for guest workers' rights.

Syed has been actively involved with different organizations such as the Saipan City Taxi Association and the former Coalition of United Workers.

Syed said he received a number of phone calls from anonymous callers that expressed offensive and disparaging remarks like "go back to Bangladesh," the f-word or "I'm going to get your a**!"

"I take it easy. I trust in my God,"

for the rights of guest workers.

Doca said there came a point when he felt like he was being spied on and stalked in his residence. He said he didn't tell his wife about some of these incidents because he didn't want her to worry. At one time, he was also dis-

bility of his aspiration.

Syed narrated that when he informed the local police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation about the hostile calls, he stopped receiving them.

Despite their experiences, both Syed and Doca said they will still continue to stand up for guest workers' rights.

Syed emphasized his love for this island, which has become his home for a long time. "The local people are the greatest people I've ever met because they have the acceptance, with Saipan being the melting pot in the Pacific," he added.

Doca said he wants native residents to realize that their group is just doing what they can to attain whatever will be given to guest workers in the CNMI.

"Somebody with the ability to make a difference needs to speak up," said Syed.

Somebody with the ability to make a difference needs to speak up.

It was last year, just before and after the Department of the Interior's recommendations for the status of CNMI guest workers came out, that Syed's involvement with the United Workers Movement NMI placed him at the receiving end of different forms of harassments.

said Syed when asked how he reacted to the situation.

Pilipino Contract Workers Association president Ronnie Doca told *Saipan Tribune* that he also went through similar occasions, like getting yelled at on the street by strangers because he is a Filipino organization member fighting

couraged by his church congregation from continuing with his activism in the community.

"I had to explain to them that one of my missions in life is to help our *kababayan* [compatriots] on island in their struggle," said Doca, adding that his church later realized the no-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new set of officers for the Pilipino Contract Workers Association, Inc. pose with members and supporters during their installation ceremony on Aug. 21 at the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ in San Jose.

Pilcowa president seeks support of members

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly inducted president of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association urged its members to continue providing support to achieve the group's objectives.

"The visions...cannot be a reality without the cooperation, the untiring support and dedication of people like you. ...Let us all hand in hand carry on our flaming desire in pursuing our goal," said Ronnie Doca.

Doca and the other new Pilcowa officers were inducted on Aug. 21 at the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ in San Jose.

Doca, who is the founding president of the organization, said he will employ the "Christian way of leadership" in serving another term as president.

"If a leader doesn't know about the good teachings of our Lord in the Bible, you cannot properly serve your group or even your community," said Doca, adding that with the guidance of the Lord and through his strong faith, he is willing and ready to serve and lead Pilcowa.

Doca also told *Saipan Tribune* that one of his goals during his term is to train other members who can serve as the next officers of the organization.

According to Doca, Pilcowa currently has more than 100 active members.

Doca added that the success of Pilcowa lies in the hands of its members and supporters.

Founded in 2006, Pilcowa aims to prosper unity and understanding among contract workers in the CNMI and to engage them in social, cultural, and environmental activities in the community.

Pilcowa also intends to provide an opportunity to uplift and enhance the efficiency and skills of all members and contract workers.

As an organization, Pilcowa endeavors to coordinate activities, promote friendship and camaraderie with other foreign worker associations.

Pilcowa also seeks to provide a forum where concerns of its members can

be discussed and resolved objectively.

The 2010-2011 Pilcowa officers are Ferdinand Martin, vice president for internal affairs; Danilo Riveral, vice president for external affairs; Fernando Muñeta, vice president for special operations; Loriza Dizon, secretary; Anecia Perez, assistant secretary; Marissa Mejia, treasurer; Anna Linda Seno, assistant treasurer; Danilo Monteclaro, auditor; Rhodora Tesoro, business manager; Lina Domingo, assistant business manager; Arceli Dela Cruz, Alona Dela Cruz, Edith Locsin, and Lorna Alcalá, public relations officers; Wilson Rondares, John Mark Elenzano, Anthony Buenaflor, Benjie Navarro, and Gerry Barbo, marshals.

Juliet Martin serves as the general

membership committee chairwoman while Solita De Jesus is the co-chairwoman.

The board of directors is composed of Melqui Pacis, chairman; Armando Macatantan, vice chairman; Joyce Estabillo, secretary; James Dagupan, ombudsman; Eugenio Royo, grievance committee chairman; Ramon Liangco, spiritual adviser; and Jun Lacamilao, Camilo Peralta, Reynaldo Villegas, Diosdado Maravillas, Carlos Piedad, Nieves Quitevez, and Ramir Calimag as members.

Former president Jun Concillado, Thess Samson, Adoracion Torres, Evelyn Del Mundo, Gaudencia Corilla, and spiritual adviser Alex Ong comprise Pilcowa's Council of Advisers.

Philippine leader vows punishment in bus hijack

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president vowed Thursday to punish authorities who bungled a bus hostage crisis that killed eight Hong Kong tourists, toughening his stance after Asian powerhouse China expressed outrage and political rivals pummelled him with criticism.

The nearly 12-hour hostage drama at a historic Manila park stunned even this violence-prone Southeast Asian nation and delivered the first major crisis to President Benigno Aquino III less than two months into his six-year term.

Also on Thursday, the Philippine Senate began an inquiry into the hostage fiasco.

"Someone failed. Someone will pay," Aquino said during a speech before students and faculty at a suburban university. He called the carnage "ghastly" and admitted there were "many failures."

It was his strongest statement since a pre-dawn news conference hours after the end of the crisis when he told reporters, who asked if some police officials will be fired, that "it's unfair to prejudge them."

"My opinion might sway the (investigating) panel and hamper their efforts of ferreting out the truth," he said then.

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry pressed Manila to "complete the investigation of the matter as soon as possible."

Philippine officials have acknowledged the economic backlash on the Philippines after Hong Kong authorities urged its citizens not to travel to the country.

About 140,000 Hong Kong tourists visit the Philippines yearly. National carrier Philippine Airlines said in a statement that at least 558 tourists from Hong Kong and China have cancelled their bookings.

Concerns also were raised about the fate and safety of more than 100,000 Filipinos working in Hong Kong, mostly as maids, who contributed to the \$17.3 billion sent home in 2009 by about 9 million overseas Filipinos—remittances that help keep the economy afloat.

At the Senate investigation, Manila police chief Rodolfo Magtibay said he gave the order to assault the bus carrying a Hong Kong tour guide and 20 tourists after hearing shots following a breakdown in the negotiations with the hostage-taker, former police officer Rolando Mendoza.

Mendoza, who had been dismissed and was demanding reinstatement, released several children and elderly hostages early on, but later opened fire on the remaining hostages. Eight people were killed before a police sniper took him out.

"I must admit that they bun-



Residents pause to look at flowers and messages placed at the site where eight Hong Kong tourists were killed in Monday's hostage standoff involving a dismissed police officer, Thursday Aug. 26, 2010, at Manila's Rizal Park, in the Philippines. AP

Fatal bullets came from Mendoza's M-16

By ALCUIN PAPA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—

Initial investigation findings indicate that none of the hostages during Monday's bloody hostage-taking were killed by "friendly fire," or bullets from the guns of the police assault team, police officials said Thursday.

The 59 spent shells recovered from inside the bus all came from the M-16 automatic rifle of the hostage-taker, dismissed Senior Insp. Rolando Mendoza, said Senior Supt. Agrimero Cruz, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

Cruz said police investigators found only one spent case from a 9mm pistol, which was the service firearm of one of members of the police team that assaulted the bus that was held hostage by Mendoza for 11 hours.

"According to witness accounts and according to the statements of the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) personnel, the members of the SWAT team fired just one shot in the direction of Mendoza. The fragment of that bullet was recovered from the ceiling of the bus," Cruz said.

He said that from the initial reports of the investigation, all gunshot wounds sustained by the eight Hong Kong tourists

who were killed came from Mendoza's firearm, either an M-16 rifle or a .45 cal. pistol.

Asked if Mendoza's eight bullet wounds had come from the SWAT team, either from the assault team or the sniper units positioned outside the bus, Cruz said "we can say that with a certain degree of certainty."

But investigators would still have to wait for the results of bullet trajectory and ballistics examinations to be able to say that with finality, he said.

"The crime lab is having a hard time comparing the specimen recovered from the bodies because these are mere metal splinters. But we are doing everything we can and in due time we can release the results of these ballistics exams," Cruz said.

He said the ballistics probe would also show if any of the victims was hit by sniper fire directed at Mendoza. There were three snipers at the scene, Cruz said.

He said the bus was to be towed Thursday from Quirino Grandstand to Camp Ricardo Papa in Taguig City. The bus will be stored in a warehouse at the Logistics Support Service inside the camp, which serves as the headquarters of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

The bus will be laid out, "air told the senators.

Opposition leader Rep. Edcel Lagman called for the resignation of Robredo and heads of

crash investigation" style, Cruz said. This will allow a "24/7" scientific investigation by the PNP, he said.

Cruz said the bus would be enclosed in an area equipped with closed-circuit television cameras and with an air-conditioning system to preserve evidence.

Local and foreign investigators will be made to wear "appropriate clothing," also to preserve evidence, he said.

"Even if it takes a year or two we are going to sustain the investigation. We learned that air crash investigations abroad take several months up to a year or several years. The PNP is willing to do this to ensure that the investigation will be conducted in a professional manner and that an impartial conclusion will be achieved. Of course a final report will be given to all concerned," Cruz said.

PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa wants the investigation to be "complete, acceptable and at par with international standards so there will be no doubts," he said.

"The PNP chief wants this [to] be a doubt-free investigation. That is why we are opening it to almost everybody," he added.

Investigators from foreign police forces are welcome to inspect the bus.

the president's communications group, saying the Aquino government "failed miserably" in handling the crisis.

square. Residents elsewhere in the city also paused to pay their respects.

The daylong standoff between the bus hijacker and police—broadcast live on TV—shocked residents in Hong Kong, a safe, affluent city that rarely sees violent crimes. Hong Kongers expressed outrage at the Philippine government's handling of the situation, with Internet users heaping verbal abuse on Aquino and Filipinos.

Magtibay has taken leave and four leaders of the assault team that eventually stormed the bus have been relieved pending an investigation. Officials have said the firearms used by 200 police commandos will be subjected to ballistic tests to see if some of the hostages were hit by police gunfire.

Magtibay told the senators that he "honestly believed" assurances by his assault team leader that they were prepared and were carrying the right equipment for the operation.

However, Sen. Miguel Zubiri pointed out the police SWAT team did not have ladders or bus window blasters, and the rope they used as a makeshift tool to pry open the vehicle's door easily snapped.

Another police officer testified that the team did not have a "flash-bang grenade," a standard weapon used by police commandos to stun a hostage-taker.

"It was Band-Aid solutions as we went along, but the element of surprise had already gone," Zubiri said. "If you are a foreigner, you will no longer come to visit the Philippines because you have seen in the news that the police are not adequately trained."

He said the crisis "demanded decisive and forthright presidential action, but the president was nowhere to be found."

In Hong Kong, business was halted in the bustling Asian financial center for a three-minute tribute Thursday morning to the slain tourists.

Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang and hundreds of citizens bowed their heads as both the Chinese and Hong Kong flags were raised and then lowered to half-mast in a downtown

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RP seeks security for OFWs working in Iraq

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Filipinos who are based in Iraq despite a government ban on travel to the war-torn Middle East country may continue working there until their contracts expire, according to a Malacañang-led inter-agency task force.

The body asked the workers' US and other foreign contractors, on Thursday, to ensure their safety and guarantee their repatriation to the Philippines upon the expiration of their contracts, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

The DFA, a member of the task force, meanwhile, reiterated on Thursday that "the total ban against the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq remains."

Aside from the DFA, the body also groups the Department of Labor and Employment, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

There are currently more than 2,000 Filipinos working in American military bases and facilities in Iraq, according to DFA spokesman J. Eduardo Malaya.

On Wednesday, Malaya told the Philippine Daily Inquirer

the government was "awaiting information from the Philippine Embassy in Baghdad on the actual number and whereabouts of Filipinos in Iraq to determine whether they are safe."

Malaya said the information would be "crucial" for the government in making any decision on the issue of workers' deployment in Iraq.

Reports reaching the DFA said over 3,500 of the estimated 6,000 Filipino workers in Iraq have been "redeployed" by their contractors to Afghanistan.

Citing these reports, another top DFA official who asked not to be named told the Philippine

Daily Inquirer that "major private contractors servicing the US military have redeployed most of their Filipino drivers, mess hall staff and other employees out of Iraq."

The same workers "have been moved into (the contractors') other theater of operation, meaning Afghanistan."

"Only 2,500 [OFWs] remain in Iraq out of the original 6,000," the same source added.

Sometime in late July, the DFA sent Special Envoy Roy Cimatu to Iraq to "assess the security situation" of OFWs there.

Cimatu's mission was "in light of the phased withdrawal

of US troops from that country and a major pullout of combat troops from Baghdad by the end of August [as announced by Washington]."

The former Armed Forces chief of staff was supposed to return to Manila early this month and submit his report and

recommendations to the inter-agency task force.

The foreign office, however, did not seem to know where Cimatu was.

"We understand that [Cimatu] is back [from Baghdad], but we're still trying to get confirmation," said Malaya.

37,679 out of 91,008 pass Nursing board, says PRC

MANILA, Philippines—Over 37,000 out of 91,008 passed the Nurse Licensure Examination that was given last July, according to a release by the Professional Regulation Commission Friday.

At least 37,679 examinees passed the exams that were given in the cities of Manila, Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Dagupan, Davao, Iloilo, La Union, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Pampanga, Tacloban, Tuguegarao, and Zamboanga, it said.

The members of the Board of Nursing are Carmencita M. Abaquin, chairman; Leonila A. Faire, Betty F. Merritt, Perla G. Po, Marco Antonio C. Sto. Tomas (inhibited), Yolanda C. Arugay and Amelia B. Rosales (inhibited), members.

The results of examination for five examinees were withheld pending final determination of their liabilities under

the rules and regulations governing licensure examination.

The oath-taking ceremony of the new nurses, as well as those who have not taken their Oath of Professional will be held before the Board on Monday and Tuesday, September 20 and 21, at 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

All must come in their white gala uniform, nurse's cap, white duty shoes, without earrings, hair not touching the collar and without corsage.

Oath-taking tickets for the National Capital Region and nearby regions will be available at the Philippine Nurses Association at 1663 F.T. Benitez Street, Malate, Manila, from Sept. 1 to 20, on a "first come first serve" basis.

All regional oath-taking schedules will be posted in the BON website: www.bonphilippines.org. (*INQUIRER.net*)

Texas approves license for Margarito » Clears way for Pacquiao fight at Cowboys Stadium

By BARRY HORN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS—Getting a boxing license for Antonio Margarito in Texas proved much easier than it did in California and Nevada. All it took was a \$20 application fee and a clean bill of health from a doctor. No pesky hearing with state-appointed commissioners badgering him about the loaded gloves he was going to enter the ring with against Shane Mosley at the Staples Center in January 2009.

Margarito was licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation on Thursday, eight days after the California State Athletic Commission, which revoked his license in February 2009, held a five-hour public hearing before turning him down. Nevada refused to license Margarito earlier this summer, requesting instead he return to California for the Aug. 18 hearing in Los Angeles.

The granting of a Texas license for Margarito means that as soon as Top Rank promoter Bob Arum and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones get together to iron out some minute details, an official announcement will come of a Margarito-Manny Pacquiao WBC 154-pound world title fight at Cowboys Stadium on Nov. 13.

"We have been sitting on pins and needles waiting for approval," said Todd DuBoef, president of Top Rank, which promotes Margarito and Pacquiao. "We are relieved Texas did its due diligence and approved the licensing."

DuBoef said Top Rank and



In this file photo, Joshua Clottey (left) covers up as Manny Pacquiao closes in during the main event, the 12-round WBO World Welterweight title bout, at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

Jones have an agreement in principle to stage what would be the second major card at Cowboys Stadium. A Pacquiao-Joshua Clottey bout in March attracted 50,994 fans with The Philippines' Pacquiao, considered the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world, the lone drawing card. It was a listless fight with Clottey, who is

from Ghana, content to go the 12-round distance in losing by unanimous decision.

Citing the popularity of Tijuana's Margarito with Hispanic fans, Arum has estimated that a Pacquiao-Margarito bout could draw a crowd of 70,000.

"We had everything in place, so we can pick it back up," Jones told reporters at Cowboys

training camp before the news was officially announced.

HBO is planning to televise the fight for the vacant title on pay-per-view.

Margarito is 38-6 with 27 knockouts. Pacquiao, who holds the WBO 147-pound world title, is 51-3 with 38 knockouts. He hopes to win a title in his sixth weight class against Margarito.

Filipina's death leads to jailing of OFW welfare officer in Saudi

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Bashir Ayob has assisted an undisclosed number of troubled overseas Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia in the past four years.

Now, it's the 47-year-old OFW welfare officer of the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh who needs help.

Since June 12, the Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat native has been detained at the Deira jail in the Saudi capital after Saudi authorities held him responsible for the death of an OFW.

John Leonard Monterona, head of the Riyadh-based OFW group Migrante-Middle East, recalled "on June 10, a Filipina staying in an OFW welfare center here in Riyadh complained she was about to give birth."

"[Ayob] rushed her to the Shemesy Hospital. However, the woman died shortly after reaching the hospital," said Monterona in an e-mail to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The Saudi police invited Ayob for questioning but also released him the same day.

Two days later, the police arrested Ayob and charged him with abandoning the OFW at the hospital.

Ayob's wife, Bing, a nurse, has repeatedly asked the Philippine embassy for help in seeking the immediate release of her husband, whom she said was "innocent of the crime charged against him," said Monterona.

Meanwhile, Migrante-Middle East has appealed to both Malacañang and the Department of Foreign Affairs to help more than 200 Filipino workers who have been "stranded" in Riyadh for over a year now.

Most, if not all of the OFWs are staying at the Bahay Kalinga, the embassy-run center for distressed Filipino migrant workers.

At least 10 of the OFWs have young children, all born in Saudi Arabia.

Migrante-Middle East identified them as Maricel Lopez, Evelyn Gura, Christine Moquia, Salma Tanjili, Halima Naslo, Noriama Adam, Ramla Kusain, Glenda Eucapor, Monawara Ibrahim and Luz Cabrera.

A check with the DFA disclosed that the OFWs were having problems in getting exit clearances from their former employers.

Migrant workers are required by Saudi authorities to show an exit clearance before they are allowed to leave the Middle East kingdom.

Gunmen stop bus in southern Philippines, kill 4

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Gunmen wearing police uniforms stopped a passenger bus in the southern Philippines early Thursday and fatally shot four people, including two police marshals, officials said.

The attack came just three days after a disgruntled ex-policeman took hostage a busload of Hong Kong tourists in Manila, killing

eight of them before he was shot dead by a police sniper.

Police said the bus attacked Thursday was traveling from Cagayan de Oro to Zamboanga city in the southern Philippines—where Muslim rebels and criminal gangs operate—when it was flagged down at a road checkpoint by gunmen in police uniforms.

They ordered the passengers to get off and then fatally shot four people, including two uniformed police marshals, the driver and the bus conductor, said Orlando Vinas, the Lanao del Norte provincial police chief.

The attackers set the bus on fire and fled.

Vinas said the marshals were deployed on regional

buses plying the same highway after gunmen early this month held up a bus to extort money from passengers.

Highway robberies are common in the country's south, where the proliferation of illegal firearms and weak law enforcement have fueled the Muslim separatist insurgency and instability for decades.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Halili-Kho mediation talks fail

Actress Katrina Halili

By JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—As mediation efforts between the camps of Katrina Halili and the mother of celebrity cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho Jr. failed, a judge said the libel case filed by the actress against Irene Kho would go to trial.

In yesterday's hearing, Judge Ma. Filomena Singh of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 85 directed both Halili and Irene Kho to undergo mediation to discuss the possibility of an out-of-court settlement.

However, nothing came out of the meeting as both camps had nothing

to say to each other during the mediation session.

A source said Halili and Irene Kho just sat beside their lawyers and remained silent throughout the 10-minute proceeding.

Halili's lawyer, Raymund Palad, and Kho's lawyer, Jose Paolo Patajo, eventually admitted that it was hopeless to mediate between the two parties.

The court then set the pretrial at 2 p.m. on Oct. 20.

Halili filed the libel charges against her former lover's mother after the older Kho alleged in two television interviews that it was the actress who introduced her son to illegal drugs.

Her complaint was junked by the

Quezon City Prosecutor's Office but the decision was overturned by the Department of Justice after Halili filed a petition for review.

Halili and the younger Kho were embroiled in a scandal last year after videos of them having sex ended up on the Internet.

The actress, who claimed that the videos were taken without her knowledge and consent, sued the cosmetic surgeon before a Pasig City court for violation of the Anti-Violence Against and Children Act.

In September, Kho was suspended for one year by the Philippine Medical Association "for conduct offensive to the profession."

Claudine set to sue Angelica

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—Claudine Barretto is threatening to file criminal charges against Angelica Panganiban for allegedly spreading "damaging" rumors about her.

Angelica supposedly told several mutual friends that Claudine was "having an affair" with Derek Ramsay's best friend.

"I'm not one to keep quiet when you [challenge] my family," Claudine, 31, told the *Inquirer*. "It's too late for an apology."

Claudine is married to Raymart Santiago; they have two kids—Sabina, 6, and Santino, 3. Derek is Angelica's boyfriend.

Last week, Claudine refused to identify the subject of her rants on Twitter. But on Sunday, during a break in her Kadayawan Festival 2010 appearances, she pointed to Angelica.

"This is a big deal," said Claudine. "Derek and Raymart have discussed it [but] Angelica never reached out to me. She felt no remorse. When things got out of hand, she denied that she ever said it. But a number of friends are willing to testify in court that she did. I'm not going into this unprepared."

Claudine said Derek apologized on his girlfriend's behalf, "but Derek wasn't the traitor."

"He wasn't the person my family trusted and welcomed into our home,"



Claudine Barretto and husband Raymart Santiago.

she pointed out. "I myself have known Angelica since she was 9. I took care of her [when she started out in the biz]. She was there when Raymart and I got

DID YOU KNOW

Aga: 'No' to noon

AGA Muhlach explains why he said no to the noontime show slot once held by Willie Revillame. "It has been offered to me. I don't think I can handle that. I can wake up early, but to do it every day would be too draining. It's like your entire life would revolve around that show. I wouldn't want to sacrifice my time for my wife and kids." (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

married. She was there when Sabina and Santino were christened. We invited her to our birthday celebrations."

Claudine said the rumors have been the subject of his fights with Raymart, who, like her, just "wants to protect his family."

To think, Claudine said, that Angelica spread the rumors "[just] because she fought with my Ate." In July, Angelica had a word war with Claudine's older sister Gretchen, Derek's co-star in the TV drama "Magkaribal."

On Aug. 4, a distraught Claudine posted on her Twitter account, "Don't mess with my family ... this is not over." Aug. 8, on "The Buzz," Angelica apologized to Gretchen.

Claudine said she would file charges after her commitments with GMA Films and Viva Films, which co-produced her latest movie "In Your Eyes." Her message for Angelica: "See you in court."

Vice Ganda: 'Sosyal!'

Comedian Vice Ganda joins the league of Lea Salonga, Charice Pempengco, Diether Ocampo and Michael V — Filipino celeb who made it on the cover of Readers Digest Asia. Vice Ganda, who's in the September issue (on Pinoy humor) says he's been a long-time fan of the international magazine and clips the Quotable Quotes page. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Car crash victims beg for justice

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

and we are better persons because of it. I'm definitely in her corner."

Bouncing checks

Bayani Agbayani's wifey Len filed a case against Johanna Lim Lao (Apol), the sister of Joy Lim of Charms and Crystals. Apol reportedly issued bouncing checks worth P7 million.

"When they were just starting, Bayani would plug their biz for free because they are our friends," Len said. "Kaya masakit na nagawa pa nila kaming lokohin."

Wonder if the spell of their charms and crystals will work for the Lims, now that they need it the most.

■ ■ ■

Television can be a cruel medium. Celebrities know that they appear heavier onscreen due to the combined effects of lights and camera angles.

That's why stars have to exert extra effort to keep the weight off. As a co-host on "Paparazzi" and "Stop, Talk & Listen," I have to face that reality all the time.

Rachel and Barni Alejandro's "Sexy Chef Pounds Away" program gave me the perfect solution. Their dishes are too yummy to be called diet food. (Call 0917-SXYCHEF.)

The Alejandro sisters are walking advertisements of their thriving food business. Rachel has found a new love to go with her new figure. Excerpts from our interview:

How did you come up with the new diet program of Sexy Chef?

I have always wanted to create a calorie-controlled diet program which includes all food groups. My friends and I who wanted to lose weight have had trouble removing carbs altogether from diets like in the initial phase of The South Beach Diet. But with Pounds Away, you are allowed to eat brown rice, bread, pasta. We contracted US Certified Nutritionist Nadine Tengco to create this program, using my sister Barni's time-tested recipes.

What are your fave dishes in this new diet?

I particularly like all our pasta dishes because we use moringa (malunggay) noodles. I'm a big fan of Italian food and, for the first time ever, I can have pasta with absolutely no guilt and knowing I'm eating something fortified with calcium and iron which both contribute to weight control.

Isn't dieting a form of vanity?

The reason most people order our diet programs is they want to look better... But we also have clients who have a considerable amount of weight to lose. In these cases, losing weight is imperative in order to avoid diabetes and heart disease.

How's your love life after splitting up with Philip?

I'm very much in-love with my Spanish boyfriend, Carlos Santamaria. He lives in Bangkok. He's a reporter for the Efe Spanish news wire service. He shuttles between Bangkok and Manila so we can be together.

Has your dad Hajji tried dieting, too?

He's one of those lucky people who don't gain an ounce! He sometimes orders grilled bangus or one of our rice bowls. But he needs to watch his cholesterol and he knows the easiest way is to have us cater his meals.

Maharlika – Opinyon

End of a honeymoon

President Aquino's political honeymoon with the euphoric Filipino voters came to an abrupt end with the bloody climax of the hostage-taking of 25 Hong Kong tourists on Monday, less than midway into the first 100 days of his presidency.

The police attack to end the 11-hour siege killed the Filipino gunman, who held the tourists hostage over his grievances against his allegedly unjust mistreatment by the government, but also left dead eight of the passengers of the tourist bus he had hijacked.

The carnage near the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta left a potentially damaging backlash on the Aquino government, which was inaugurated only last June 30, and exposed its panic and inexperience as well as the incompetence of the Philippine National Police in handling a security crisis, involving the safety of visitors to the Philippines, and its paralysis in dealing with the gunman. It also precipitated a meltdown of the prestige of the Aquino government, which was elected with a commanding landslide last May.

The crisis came at a time when the new government was feeling its way and was still bathed in the euphoria over the President's pledge of political reforms to curb corruption. The siege highlighted the vacuum of political leadership at the height of the crisis, during which the President was hardly visible, and unable to give a coherent

account of what was happening inside and around the seized bus, where the hostages were being held by the gunman.

The President, for the duration of the 11-hour siege, appeared as confused and immobilized as the police SWAT team. The lack of presidential presence was quickly noticed and immediately raised questions about where the President was, who was in charge, or whether he was getting correct information from the police who surrounded the hijacked bus and conducted negotiations with the gunman for the release of his hostages.

The government's handling of the siege was the first reality check faced by the new government which was earning wide plaudits for its rhetorical success in its pledge to curb corruption and abuse of power by government officials. But the siege was a different kind of test that had nothing to do with governance.

After the abrupt end of its political honeymoon, doubts were raised whether the President would be given another chance to regain his eroded popularity and diminished public confidence in his ability to respond to unexpected emergencies.

Television proved to be a cruel medium and witness to the incompetence with which the government and the police dealt with the siege. People overseas who followed the blow-by-blow TV coverage were quick to note the President's impulsive and implausible shifts of moods, and noted his absence in a time of crisis. The government and the police were quick to admit their shortcomings in responding to the crisis as they tried to appease the outraged government of Hong Kong. But this did not help the government.

In the Philippines, public demand mounted for the resignation of police officials and even Cabinet members who were seen not to be equal to their jobs during the crisis when their reassuring presence was badly needed. The government quickly found scapegoats to appease the demand for heads to roll, including that of the apparently unperturbed and smug new secretary of interior and local govern-

ment, Jesse Robredo, who has been basking in his reputation as a winner of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award. As the number of victims increased even as the SWAT team clumsily tried to storm the bus, the public ceased to be impressed by the award. They began to ask what Robredo, whose department is in charge of the Philippine National Police, was doing to avert the carnage. The report that the President could not be contacted by Hong Kong authorities at the height of the siege did not escape the notice of the Filipino public as well as TV audiences in many parts of the world.

The siege also highlighted the disarray in the bifurcated Communications Group. Its two secretaries—Ricky Carandang and Herminio Coloma, plus Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda—offered different explanations for the President's disappearance from public view, when his presence was urgently needed to reassure the public that he was on top of things. The different explanations raised questions about who among the several mouthpieces speaks authoritatively for the President.

One of the redeeming features of the fiasco was that Chief Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, director of the Manila Police District, offered to go on leave, to remove the impression that he would unduly influence the investigation.

The criticism that ensued from the bungled siege was the harshest Mr. Aquino has received since taking office. Although he offered apologies quickly to the victim's families and the Hong Kong government, the apologies failed to calm down the outrage. Hong Kong citizens were enraged over the fact that during his public appearances, he appeared to be smiling. One Hong Kong citizen said, "Don't smile in front of the camera after a tragedy has happened."

But the President said his smile, during an inspection of the hijacked bus, might have been misunderstood. "I have several expressions. I smile when I'm happy. I smile when I'm faced with a very absurd situation where I cannot vent my own emotions."

The rest of us are second-guessing him.

Red pants and six-pack abs

Liwasang Bonifacio was renamed in honor of Andres Bonifacio whose statue, by National Artist Guillermo Tolentino, stands between an overpass and the Metropolitan Theater. This statue is different from all other Bonifacio monuments all over the country because of its quiet dignity. Unlike the bolo-waving hero made iconic by National Artist Carlos V. Francisco, and the statue that stands outside Vinzons Hall in UP Diliman, this one on Liwasang Bonifacio depicts Bonifacio with a gaze of steel, his arms raised near his hips, his hands poised to draw his weapons and fight.

The true exercise of power and art is in its restraint and this is one virtue we sorely lack today. We are uncomfortable with restraint. We state the obvious. We pound flies with sledgehammers.

Tolentino's Bonifacio in Liwasang Bonifacio has a magnificent backdrop in the Post Office, but it is seldom given the fleeting attention it deserves. If you read the destination painted on the sides of jeepneys plying this route, you will notice that Liwasang Bonifacio is also known as Plaza Lawton. Barkers draw passengers in by shouting "Lawton" because "Liwasang Bonifacio" has too many syllables. Barkers do not realize they are also teachers of history.

US Gen. Henry Ware Lawton was the highest-ranking casualty of the Philippine-American War. He was killed by a Filipino sniper under the command of Gen. Licerio Geronimo in San Mateo, Rizal, in 1899. Thus, aside from the former Plaza Lawton in Manila, there is: Lawton Street in San Francisco, United States; a borough called Lawton in Havana, Cuba; and a city in Oklahoma named Lawton. How I wish that Plaza Lawton were renamed Liwasang Geronimo instead of Liwasang Bonifacio because Geronimo should also be remembered.

By coincidence Lawton fought in the U.S. "Indian Wars" and in 1886 he participated in the operation that led to the capture of the famous Apache chief Geronimo. Lawton did not know that another Geronimo would enter and end his life 13 years later.

I remembered the Tolentino statue of Bonifacio in Manila when I passed the Balintawak flyover and saw yet another bolo-waving statue in a neatly maintained park there. Why can't artists draw inspiration and stereotypes from the Tolentino monument in Caloocan that led to the place being called, simply, "Monumento"?

In August 1896 Bonifacio began the Philippine Revolution against Spain, but aside from a commemoration in Pugad Lawin, Quezon City, do we remember our history?

Like many Filipinos my image of Bonifacio is formed by art, not history. Thus, Bonifacio is always shouting, he is always angry. He

wears a trademark white camisa chino open to his navel to reveal sexy six-pack abs. He wears red drawstring pants folded at the cuffs to reveal his clean bare feet. Nobody seems to ask whether it was practical to join the revolution without footwear, or to challenge Spanish guns and cannons with a bolo or a sharpened bamboo spear. Nobody even asks whether it was sensible to fight in the fields wearing a blazing white shirt and screaming red pants. Nobody seems to ask why students acting out the *Noli Me Tangere* always dress Ibarra in black hat, coat and pants resembling Jose Rizal in statues all over the country. And why they dress Elias in the white shirt and red pants symbolizing Bonifacio.

When Ibarra and Elias are in a banca discussing the pros and cons of reform and revolution, why do we associate these literary characters with Rizal and Bonifacio? Shouldn't the correct interpretation be that Ibarra and Elias are both sides of Rizal? That Ibarra and Elias merely express the internal debate within Rizal regarding reform and revolution?

We accept the image of Bonifacio that artists have given us but rarely ask if the image is historically accurate. Tolentino gave us a Bonifacio of bronze, so we do not have the colors of his shirt and pants. Tolentino gave Bonifacio shoes and a beautifully embroidered barong Tagalog. If you will make history, you might as well be dressed for the part.

While there is an urgent need to correct and revise the textbooks used in Philippine schools, nobody seems to notice that much of history we learn outside school. We learn about our heroes and their deeds from simple everyday things like coins and banknotes: Rizal on the lowly P1 coin; Aguinaldo on the P5 coin, Bonifacio and Mabini share the P10 coin. Then on the bills we have: Quezon on P20, Osmeña on P50, Roxas on P100, Macapagal on P200, Ninoy and Cory (soon!) on P500, Escoda, Lim and Abad Santos on P1,000. We learn about historical figures and events from monuments and memorials. The faces of our heroes we learn from posters and postcards sold in bookstores and displayed in schools.

Before a child even enters school, he or she learns something about Philippine history from his parents and their surroundings: Spaniards were bad, Americans were good; Aguinaldo was bad, Bonifacio was a victim, Rizal was good; that Marcos was bad and Cory was good; that Quezon was good and Laurel was a collaborator, etc.

History is not just about dates, names and places from the past. History is in our schools to promote informed and responsible citizenship. When we correct textbook errors and develop relevant teaching modules to these ends, only then will we see our heroes in a new light.

EDITORIAL

Black day for media

Last Monday's hostage incident that saw the death of eight Hong Kong Chinese tourists as well as their hostage-taker, dismissed Senior Insp. Rolando Mendoza, was a black day not only for the Philippine National Police, but also for the Philippine broadcast media. Press experts and President Benigno Aquino III himself agreed that television news inordinately got involved in the hostage drama, breaking the police line and shooting an extraordinary amount of footage that was broadcast in uninterrupted 24/7 fashion, giving away whatever the police were doing to stem the crisis and bring it to a peaceful resolution. Mr. Aquino said that media's intensive coverage "provided a wealth of information" to Mendoza, who was watching television on the bus "throughout the whole time."

The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas has defended broadcast networks. Referring to the KBP Television Code and protocols of individual networks, the KBP leadership said, "We believe they have adhered to these standards."

Indeed, the code has provisions governing media conduct. The Code, for example, has an article on "crime and crisis situation" such as "kidnapping and hostage-taking" in which broadcast agencies are enjoined not to "put lives in greater danger than what is already inherent in the situation." Such coverage should be "restrained and care should be taken so as not to hinder or obstruct efforts of authorities to resolve the situation." The Code adds, "The coverage of crime or crisis situations shall not provide vital information or offer comfort or support to the perpetrators."

But alas, these protocols were honored more in the breach than in the observance last Monday. Media men were swarming all over the place. It didn't help that the Mack Sennet cops of the Manila Police District and its Special Weapons and Tactics Team failed to cordon off the place. But they did ask the media not to air sensitive footage. And although certain television network editors exercised restraint at first, they couldn't resist the temptation of beating the competition and relaxed their gate-keeping responsibilities.

The broadcast media cannot wash their hands for triggering the bloodbath; at the very least, they cannot ignore the fact that they had worsened the crisis. Television also showed insensitivity to the plight of the victims when it sought to interview the driver as he fled from the tourist bus: the driver was barely out of harm's reach and here was television making a dash to interview him. And minutes after the bus attack, television was showing footage of the brutal scene. The cops again failed to cordon off the place for crime-scene investigation and the media were happily shooting away. Meanwhile, TV reporters went on the air weeping and breaking down over the bloodshed, emotions overcoming them, a soap opera featuring bungling cops and mercenary media men.

The broadcast media should conduct an inquiry as to whether or not they observed the protocols which they themselves set in the spirit of self-regulation. Every journalist knows the adage that no story is worth dying for. TV stations should realize the adage's corollary meaning: No story is worth putting other people's lives in danger.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



COURTESY VISIT

Six of the eight members of the Saipan Awaodori Group pay a courtesy visit to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio last Friday at the MVA conference room. With the students are Hideaki Sawada and Misako Kamata, directors of PDM Promoters, Inc. who will subsidize part of the costs of the Japan trip.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio hands out Saipanda bags to members of the Saipan Awaodori Group who will fly to Japan to participate in the Awaodori Festival on Aug. 28-29. Eight members left for Japan on Aug. 26 and will fly back to Saipan on Sept. 2.

BORDALLO BACKS BORJA

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo endorses the NMI Democratic Party's delegate candidate, Jesse C. Borja, at the recent Jefferson Jackson Dinner held at Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort. The event was sponsored by the Democratic Party of Guam.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MOBIL DONATION

Guma Esperansa director Laurie Ogumoro holds the \$6,000 check donation from Mobil. The shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault was chosen to be the beneficiary of Smiles promo grand prize winners Edihuel Necesito and Aya Desebel.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Country Manager Gennaro Cioffi addresses the audience during the awarding of winners for the "Giving Everyone A Reason to Smile" promotion last Friday at the Joeten Superstore.



VETERANS OFFICIALS

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from right, meets with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System officials Tommy Driskill and Kathy Hass at the Office of the Governor. At left is Ruth Coleman, executive assistant for military and veterans affairs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CLARISSA V. DAVID

FARMERS' MEETING

Agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera and Saipan Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho talk to reporters Tuesday about the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



From left, Ebeong, Joseph D. Jess, Otoy, Joe C., Fred, Marvin, and Joe E.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings to Marilyn Sta. Maria, who celebrated her birthday last Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010, at her residence in As Lito, Saipan. May you have many more birthdays to come, God bless you. Greetings coming from your friends. Standing, from left, Lou, Vicky, Edith, Arlene, Tina, and Tita. Seated, from left, Jeanny, Christian, and the celebrant.



YoungStyle

Dutch teen sailor reaches Canary Islands



Laura Dekker is shown here in a file photo.

MADRID (AP)—A 14-year-old Dutch sailor aiming to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world says she has reached Spain's Canary Islands off northwest Africa but declined Thursday to say where exactly she was.

"Now I'm in the Canary Islands with the first stage of my trip behind me," Laura Dekker wrote on her website. "It was a great first stage that I can look back on with a good feeling."

The message was posted Wednesday but gave no details as to where on the seven-island archipelago she was.

In an email Thursday to The Associated Press, Dekker said she would not specify where she was for fear of attracting the press. She also said she did not know how long she would stay in the Canary Islands.

The trip has been shrouded in secrecy since the start. Dekker has also sold exclusive TV rights to her voyage to a Dutch media company.

"Sleeping, eating, navigating and all the other things on board went well," she wrote in the website message.

"I'll have to look at land for a while now, but with the beautiful weather and great view here that will be fine," Laura added.

She is expected to stay in the Canary Islands while waiting for the Atlantic storm season to abate. During her stay she will be able to catch up on her schoolwork, receive family visits and

install cameras on her yacht for a film to be made of the voyage.

Laura set off from Gibraltar on Aug. 21. Her venture has stirred an intense debate about whether young people should be allowed to sail the world's oceans alone.

After the Canary Islands, Laura intends to head south to the Cape Verde Islands off west Africa before continuing to the Caribbean on a trip expected to last a year or more.

Laura's website features links titled "My Coordinates" and "Where is Laura," but neither was working Thursday.

The schoolgirl plans to stop at dozens of ports and may even return home for a visit before resuming her trip.

Her attempt came after she took measures to reduce objections to her voyage. She purchased a bigger, sturdier boat than the one she originally planned to use and took courses in first aid and coping with sleep deprivation.

In the end, the Dutch court ruled that her preparations were adequate and it was up to her parents, who are divorced, to decide whether to let her make the attempt.

The attempt comes two months after Abby Sunderland, a 16-year-old American, had to be rescued in a remote section of the Indian Ocean during an attempt to circle the globe. Earlier this year, Jessica Watson of Australia completed a 210-day voyage at age 16.

Rogge says Youth Olympics to have better athletes

SINGAPORE (AP)—Better athletes will be coming to the next Youth Olympics, IOC president Jacques Rogge said Thursday.

Rogge didn't name which countries declined to send their best teenage athletes to Singapore for this year's games, but he said they promised to do so at the next edition in Nanjing, China, in 2014.

"There are a number of countries that have not sent their absolute top athletes but a little lower level," Rogge said. "They all told me that they regret it and they underestimated the scope and vitality of this competition."

"From those countries where the top was not present, I got the assurance that next time it would be."

The Youth Olympics, which closed Thursday, were dominated by China, which won 30 gold medals and 51 overall. Russia was second with 19 gold medals and South Korea was third with 11.

The United States won only four gold medals, and U.S. Olympic Committee chief executive Scott Blackmun said earlier this week that scheduling conflicts had kept some top American athletes from competing in Singapore.

The Youth Olympics featured 3,600 athletes aged 14 to 18 from 204 national Olympic committees competing in 26 sports.

Rogge said he was also pushing for an agreement with FIFA to allow higher quality soccer teams to play at future Youth Games. Rogge said FIFA had insisted that weaker teams be given a chance at international exposure at the tournament, which featured champion Bolivia, runner-up Haiti, bronze medalist Singapore, Montenegro, Zimbabwe and Vanuatu.

"It's true that in football we didn't

Science Matters

Swift punishment for lying

Paper wasps—complex social insects similar to honey bees—punish other paper wasps that exaggerate their own strength.

Marks on face indicate wasp's fighting ability; hormones affect the marks' size



Note varying marks on these six individuals' faces

How faces were marked

Researchers marked wasps with paint and introduced a second wasp



Second wasp believes, dominates weak wasp



Second wasp believes and submits



Second wasp detects lie, refuses to submit but does not attack

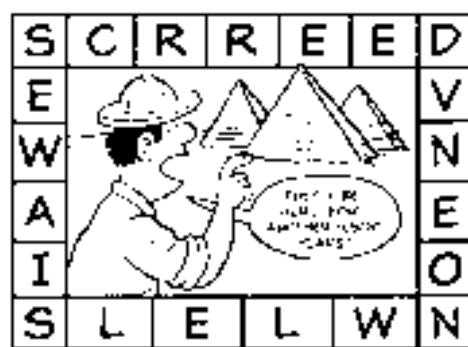


Second wasp detects lie and attacks

Source: Elizabeth Tibbetts and Amanda Izzo of University of Washington, Current Biology
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas © 2010 MCT

For Singapore, the Youth Games were part of a strategy to diversify its economy toward tourism and services and away from manufacturing. The opening of two casino resorts built by Las Vegas Sands and Malaysia's Genting this year, and the staging of the first annual night race for Formula One in 2008 have helped attract record tourist arrivals.

"These Youth Games have definitely exceeded vastly my highest expectations," Rogge said. "I did not expect this level of perfection in organization. Hats off to Singapore for what they have done."



HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME is a famous proverb. Find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counter-clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

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A COIN CONUNDRUM! Jimmy has a bag that contains 50 coins. The total value of these coins is \$1. Can you tell how many quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies are in the bag?

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THE "C" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. Here are some hints from the top down:

- 1. Plundering the 100
- 2. Symbol for one
- 3. A metal currency
- 4. Name of a coin
- 5. Weaving a fabric
- 6. Weaving rhythmicity



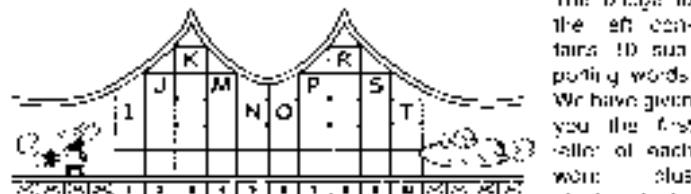
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Illustration by David Carlson

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE!



The bridge in the left contains 10 sun punny words we have given you the first letter of each word plus plenty of hints.

1. Angry wall
2. Reward nation
3. Small covered newsletter
4. Found in all restaurants
5. Zero, or nothing
6. To make a choice or decision
7. Top of the head
8. A large black bird
9. A large, hot-bolstered last
10. A type of ivy

MAGIC MAZE • NEIGHBORHOODS

K D X V S Q O M K I G E C A Y

W I R S Q P N L J H A E I E E

C A Y O X V U S B S R E Y Q L

L A I T N Q U A R T E R C U L

P N M K J U S S R G P V R I . I

I H I U C T D A B L O U I P V

I Z Y X I N M E S R I O B M E

F V U L A T T R R M Q L P E L

I D I L I N O R E D A C O R T L

I E S O M D R A R J G I A V E

I I M I S F I L O N G I T A B

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Basile	Bourse	Lauren	Tempo
Batignolles	Gare du Nord	Montmartre	Trocadero
Belleville	Islands	Opera	Vaugirard
Bercy	Latin Quarter	St. German	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thiste

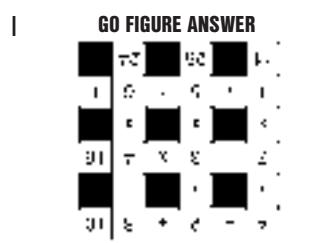
The idea of Go Figure is to move all the figures given at the center and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom) use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: *

* Moderate ** Difficult
*** GOT IT!

	÷		+		10
+		+			
-		x			16
x	x		x		
	+		÷		1
11	25	24			
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8				

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



Treating pet's mouth ulcers

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: If you can get this information to Linda J., whose dog, Caitlin, had mouth ulcers, I think she would appreciate it. There is a relatively new product on the market called Vetericyn. I used it on my elderly horse who also had a terrible erosion of his gum. It looked better in about four days and healed in two weeks!—Carol S., via email

DEAR CAROL: Thanks! Vetericyn's website (<http://www.vetericyn.com>) claims the treatment reduces healing time for wounds by up to 60 percent, and that it's nontoxic and doesn't damage healthy tissue.

Now, I tend to look askance at any product that claims to be a cure-all, so I did a bit of research on this relatively new product, which has been touted to the equine world for about a year and is beginning to take off as a treatment for household pets.

Vetericyn is a mixture of ionized water and very low amounts of bleach and sodium (salt)—all of which are pretty effective at killing bacteria, viruses and fungi. But some horse owners have mentioned on equine forums that it was not effective in helping wounds heal.



Others think it's a great product.

Does this mean you shouldn't use Vetericyn? Feel free to give it a try. If your pet is suffering from a sore that won't heal, however, I strongly recommend you work with your vet during treatment so he or she can monitor your pet's progress and provide treatment alternatives should they be needed.

■ ■ ■

Have a question about your pet? Contact Sam at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. And visit www.pawscorner.com for more pet advice and resources.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was 19th-century author Samuel Butler who made the following sage observation: "Morality is the custom of one's country and the current feeling of one's peers. Cannibalism is moral in a cannibal country."

■ When the city of New York was concerned about leaks in its main water-supply system, it found a novel approach to the problem. Six experienced deep-sea divers were hired to live in a pressurized tank within the water-supply tunnel for a month while they investigated the leaks.

■ Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Popsicle was invented by an 11-year-old boy.

■ If you would like to get into modeling and live the glamorous life, you might want to reconsider: Researchers at Dow Jones MarketWatch have found that the average model makes a mere \$11 to \$12 per hour.

■ Statistics show that for every person born in the United States, there are 15 puppies and 45 kittens born.

■ In 1950, the average executive earned about 30 times as much as the average worker. Today's executives earn 300 to 500 times as much.

■ Evidently wild monkeys are causing a bit of trouble for railroads in India. It seems that the monkeys board trains and run amok, causing no small amount of consternation to the passengers. To combat the problem, police in the city of Delhi hired a black-faced langur monkey to ride the trains and frighten off the wild monkeys. There's no word on what wages were offered.

■ The most common surnames in the United States are, in order, Smith, Johnson, Williams and Jones.

■ Those who study such things say that in just one of your fingertips there are approximately 3,000 touch receptors.

■ Thought for the Day: "A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done."—Fred Allen

One-on-one time with grandkids

With Grandparents Day coming up on Sunday, Sept. 12, I checked in with some cool grandparents to find out what makes moments with their grandkids extra special. I chatted with caring grandparents far and wide on planes and trains and in bustling park playgrounds, and I discovered that a common theme to "Grandparenting 101" might best be called "Grandparenting 1 on 1."

Seventy-year-old Frank Copple, grandfather of three young, active boys, said that to really get to know the personalities, interests and characteristics of his grandsons, he carves out time to do an activity with each individually. "Each child is unique, and it's gratifying and fun to encourage their talents one on one, whether we go fishing, take a walk around the neighborhood observing sights and sounds, or do a little project together," he said. "Those are the times when we really connect."

Energetic grandmother Betsy Peak calls her together time with 10-year-old granddaughter Madeline "Maddi Club Day." "I pick her up, and we do whatever we want that day," says Betsy. "You never know where our adventures will lead us. When she was young, one of our favorite outings was to the Humane Society, which eventually resulted in adopting a wonderful dog named Allie."

If you are a grandparent, start your own grandkid club for one-on-one time together. And remember, wherever you go and whatever you do on your club day will be special because you shared the memory together.

Here are free activities you can enjoy this fall:

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

■ If you are a sports fan, grab a mitt and ball, and play catch. Lead up to the 2010 World Series in October with older grandkids by discussing and following stats and scores in the newspaper and online. Shuffle through your old baseball cards and share your memories, then help them get started with their own collection.



■ If you are a gardener, pick a pretty autumn bouquet of your last flowers, and harvest your vegetables. Talk about what you can plant in the garden together next spring.

■ If you like nature walks, go for a hike in a nearby nature preserve to observe the changing leaves, walk through a botanical garden or toss stones in a lake or river.

Parenting Tip: Celebrate Grandparents Day by helping your kids make a greeting card or frame a special photo for their grandparents.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasdaday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2010 Donna Erickson

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Life & Style

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Jill Etesse was hooked on the "Twilight" books the second she cracked the series opener. She ripped through the saga on paper and rented movie No. 1.

Then the madness began.

"I joined the lines of teens for 'New Moon,'" said the 38-year-old mom of two. "My husband is deathly embarrassed. Half my friends think I'm crazy."

Etesse, from Leesburg, Va., won't let her 8-year-old daughter anywhere near Team Edward OR Team Jacob, but did she take herself to "Eclipse" this summer? "Oh yeah."

Is there something, um, icky about moms lusting after the boys of "Twilight" or other morsels of ripe screen candy? Heck no, said 54-year-old Toni Downey of Limerick, Pa. We're not dead yet!

Downey's more into Matt Bomer, 32, of TV's "White Collar" at the moment, but "I've had impure thoughts



Taylor Lautner, from left, Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson star in "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse."

KIMBERLEY FRENCH/MCT

Edward, Jacob: Hey, we're not dead yet

about barely legal boys as well." Strictly the celebrity look-don't-touch variety, she notes.

Eighteen-year-old Taylor Lautner's six-pack? "Mind-boggling," said Downey, who has a 25-year-old daughter. "She likes Buffy as her only vamp thing, and we both thought Pattinson was hotter as a blond in Harry Potter."

Into the light they've come, publicly declaring their sometimes puzzled joy, juggling movie schedules with diaper changes, kid lunches and soccer practices. They're definitely looking forward with younger fans to the last two "Twilight" movies starting next year, and they're scooping up all sorts of reads intended for the young.

"I have no idea why it's so appealing to me," Etesse said of her "Twilight" Jones. "I'm married to a tall, dark and handsome French-Irish guy, but those abs, you

know. I'd trade a pair of my Jimmy C's for my husband to have those."

In June, 30-year-old mom Christina Fiedler was undaunted by a tent city of young people on her way in to a special screening of "Eclipse" at a Los Angeles theater. She's not all that much older than 24-year-old Robert Pattinson and his mid-20s Cullen kin, played by Kellan Lutz and Jackson Rathbone, but her mom status makes her feel light years their senior, especially since they're all supposed to be teens on screen.

"What an odd experience to be an adult woman in a theater full of screaming tweens," said Fiedler, who has a 2-year-old son and has blogged about her "Twilight" habit at Mom Logic. "I didn't go with my Team Jacob or Team Edward shirt like some of the women my age did. There were quite a few of them. I didn't talk back to the screen like they did."

Is there an age cutoff of appropriateness? A mom code when it comes to ogling young hunks?

Single mom Victoria Martinez, 37, in Hemet, Calif., said yes. She has three boys of her own, ages 15, 14 and 11, and won't let her mind wander to jail bait. The Cullen clan may be playing teens, but they're way legal in life so it's full steam ahead.

"I don't have a husband or even a significant other to worry about when it comes to my man candy crushes," she said, adding that she's a bit of a cougar on the ground. "Taylor Lautner isn't on my list because he's only 18 and I still think of him as Shark Boy."

Martinez first heard of the Twilight saga when she learned the bedroom-eyed Pattinson was cast as Edward. "He's the reason I read the books. There's just something irresistible about him. I'll

continue to lust over and enjoy them on the big screen long after the teens move on to the next big thing."

She has others, not just the Twilight crew. There's Jake Gyllenhaal, who at 29 was "a nice piece of summer eye candy" in "Prince of Persia." Downey especially liked the Entertainment Weekly spread featuring Bomer pouring a jug of water over his head, nicely soaking his white T-shirt.

"And he and his character have a pinch of naughty in the devastating smile," she said.

With an upswing in grown-ups (yes, women) embracing books intended for teens, are moms thinking younger, or at least enjoying the freedom to express their still-young sides in ways June Cleaver was denied?

Fiedler's Team Edward, though considers him bad boy material for his younger fans. He encourages Bella to keep secrets from her family and ditch her old friends. He needs anger management counseling and the two are never happy. Besides, his family finds her "irresistible." You be the judge.

"It's not so much as a 'lust' thing as it is escaping from a hectic daily life and into their frivolous ones," she said. "It's this generation's Romeo and Juliet— forbidden love."



Flynt

AIDS activists file complaint against Flynt

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An AIDS activist group filed a workplace safety complaint against Larry Flynt on Thursday, accusing the porn king of creating an unsafe environment for his stable of sex stars by not requiring they use condoms.

To illustrate its point, the AIDS Health Foundation also delivered 100 DVDS of hardcore Flynt films to the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health's Los Angeles office. Only a single scene in one of the films shows a performer using a condom, said AHF spokesman Ged Kenslea.

The films, most with innuendo-laden names, "clearly demonstrate workplace activities highly likely to spread blood-borne pathogens in the workplace," the complaint says. It urges the state agency to order the use of condoms on film sets.

Larry Flynt Productions President Michael Klein indicated that is an unreasonable demand, adding porn audiences don't want to watch people using condoms.

"We won't budge when it comes to condomless productions," he said in a statement. "That's what the consumer wants, and we deliver it."

Federal law requires that all porn actors be tested for HIV 30 days before the start of filming, and Klein said Flynt's productions adhere to those standards. He added that none of the company's actors has ever tested positive for HIV.

AHF President Michael Weinstein said his group targeted Flynt in part because he is arguably the world's most famous and successful pornographer. Hours before filing the complaint, AHF members, clad in bright red shirts, demonstrated outside the plush Beverly Hills skyscraper that is home to Larry Flynt Productions.

Earlier this year, the group brought similar complaints against nine talent agencies it says promote actors willing to have unprotected sex on camera. Cal-OSHA spokeswoman Krisann Chasarik said Thursday those complaints prompted an investigation, although she didn't know the status of it.

Depending on the nature of a complaint, Chasarik said, Cal-OSHA can launch a workplace inspection or ask that an employer prove the complaint is groundless.

"Our next step now would be to evaluate the complaint," she said of Thursday's filing.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, workers in the adult film industry are 10 times more likely to be infected with a sexually transmitted disease than members of the general population. The department documented 2,013 cases of chlamydia and 965 cases of gonorrhea among workers between 2003 and 2007, and noted that some performers had four or more separate infections over the course of a year.

Empire State Bldg not lit for Mother Teresa b'day

NEW YORK (AP)—The Empire State Building was lit in red, white and blue on Thursday night for women's suffrage as more than 100 people protested a refusal by the iconic skyscraper's owner to mark Mother Teresa's 100th birthday.

Yet the colors that the Catholic League had requested in her honor appeared to be, viewed from blocks to the west, the most luminous against the darkened skyline: The building's 203-foot pinnacle blazed a brilliant blue, while the stories just below glowed a frosty white. It was underscored by red.

The colors chosen were intended to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

Nevertheless, demonstrators led by the Catholic League protested the building owner's decision to deny the organi-

zation's request to change the colors of its lights to blue and white in honor of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning nun.

The building's owner, Anthony Malkin, has cited a policy of not illuminating the edifice for religious figures for the denial. He didn't respond to a phone message requesting comment on Thursday.

City resident James Cagney, 77, was with his wife at the demonstration. He called the decision to deny Mother Teresa the lighting honor a "crazy idea."

"It doesn't make sense, because she was a favorite with everybody," said Cagney, who's originally from Ireland but lives in Queens.

His wife, Bridget Cagney, 73, said she simply was glad to be celebrating Mother Teresa's life.

"I woke up this morning, and there was blue and white skies, so it didn't

matter," she said. "She had her own lights right up there."

Illuminating the 102-story Manhattan skyscraper in different colors is a tradition. The building, a centerpiece of the city's skyline, has been lit up for the release of Mariah Carey's album in 2008, for the 25th anniversary of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in 2009, for religious holidays such as the end of Ramadan and Easter and for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Empire State Building's owner lost a bid on Wednesday to keep a skyscraper from being built in the same neighborhood, changing the skyline.

New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan said Mother Teresa, who was born Aug. 26, 1910, may not have approved of the brouhaha over the lighting of the skyscraper.

Dolan, speaking at St. Patrick's Ca-

thedral with members of Mother Teresa's order in the pews dressed in the blue-and-white saris she favored, said she "might be a little unhappy."

"She was humility personified," he said. "She didn't like a lot of attention."

Mother Teresa died Sept. 5, 1997, at age 87. In 2003, she was beatified by the Roman Catholic Church—a step toward possible sainthood.

In her honor, billboards in Times Square were expected to be illuminated. And Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other city officials announced an online exchange where residents can volunteer their time and skills or receive services from others.

The program, called timebanking, allows members to earn credits for each hour they spend giving their services. Those credits can then be redeemed for services.

Woman to stand trial on charge of slicing DiCaprio

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge ordered a woman to stand trial on a charge of slashing Leonardo DiCaprio's face with glass during a 2005 party.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Edmund Willcox Clarke ordered Aretha Wilson to face one count of assault with a deadly weapon. The charge includes an allegation that Wilson, 40, caused great bodily injury.

The details and extent of Di-

Caprio's injuries were not made public, although the judge, who has reviewed photos of the injuries to the actor's ear and neck, said Thursday that "this would not be an injury that would be called trivial or moderate, in my view."

Those photos also were not made public. Di-



DiCaprio

Caprio did not attend the hearing.

Wilson was returned to Los Angeles in the five-year-old case after waiving extradition from Canada.

She has pleaded not guilty and remains jailed in lieu of \$150,000 bail.

Wilson's attorney Freddy Sayegh said the ruling

was not unexpected and that Wilson has vehemently professed her innocence. He said he expected to trial to begin within 60 days.

She is due back in court on Sept. 9.

Authorities have said Wilson attacked DiCaprio with a broken beer bottle, but a witness called Thursday said it was a wine glass. The criminal complaint identifies the object only as glass.

Levi Johnston takes back his apology to Palin

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Levi Johnston, the father of Sarah Palin's grandson, says he wishes he hadn't apologized for telling lies about the former Alaska governor because he's "never lied about anything."

Johnston said in an interview on CBS' "The Early Show" to air Friday that he wishes that he hadn't issued the apology to Palin.

"I don't really regret anything," Johnston said, who has appeared nude on the cover of Playgirl. "But the only thing I wish I wouldn't have done is put out



Johnston

that apology 'cause it kind of makes me sound like a liar. And I've never lied about anything. So that's probably the only thing. The rest of the stuff I can live with."

CBS said the interview was taped Thursday in Los Angeles.

Johnston is the two-time fiance of Palin's eldest daughter, Bristol, and the father of Bristol's son Tripp. Bristol Palin's teen pregnancy thrust the couple into the national spotlight during Sarah Palin's run as the GOP's vice presidential candidate in 2008.

Johnston has expressed an interest in politics, filing papers last week to run for office in his hometown of Wasilla, Alaska, next year.

While he has not officially declared which political office

he aspires to, his manager, Tank Jones, has said Johnston is interested in a run for mayor or city council. Earlier this month, Jones confirmed the 20-year-old Johnston planned to run for office as part of a reality TV show.

No autotuning here, say 'American Idol' producers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Cowell has gone from "American Idol" judge to a potential headache for the show.

A furor over whether Cowell's British talent show "The X Factor," which he created in Britain and is hugely popular there, to the Fox network in 2011.

Fans of "The X Factor" have

judges panel, which begins its work sometime after Labor Day.

Cowell left the top-rated series at the end of last season and is bringing "The X Factor," which he created in Britain and is hugely popular there, to the Fox network in 2011.

alleged online that pitch-correction software was used to alter some performances. The show's producers responded to the outcry by acknowledging that post-production was used to correct for the interplay of the various microphones used during filming.

The producers vowed to avoid the use of electronic pitch correction.

British media outlets have made hay of the issue, with Cowell a particular target. His photo was featured on the front of Britain's Daily Mirror on Monday, under the caption: "X Faker."

"American Idol" returns in January.



Cowell

Judge: Chris Brown doing a 'great job' on probation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The judge overseeing Chris Brown's probation for beating ex-girlfriend Rihanna sang the praises of the R&B artist on Thursday and urged him to keep chipping away at his community service requirement.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg did not raise any issues about Brown's progress during the brief hearing.

"You're doing very well on probation," Schnegg told Brown. "You're doing a great job."

Brown, 21, did not speak during the hearing.

The judge said Brown had consistently worked to satisfy his six-month community labor

sentence, but she did not say how many hours he had completed.

Schnegg also noted she had read positive reports from a domestic violence counseling program attended by Brown.

His attorney Mark Geragos said at a hearing in May that Brown had logged nearly 300 hours of community work.

The singer was sentenced last year to five years probation and six months of community labor for assaulting Rihanna in February 2009 after a pre-Grammy Awards party.

Once known for his squeaky-clean image and dancing ability, Brown has also been working to repair his public image since the beating.



Brown

Underwood, Paisley to host CMA Awards Nov. 10

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Carrie Underwood's wedding was one of the most special days of her life, but it will likely become fodder for jokes when she and Brad Paisley host the Country Music Association Awards for the third year in a row. The two will anchor the Nov. 10 ceremony in Nashville, and Paisley said of Underwood's July union with NHL player Mike Fisher: "We have to bring it up." "It was big news in country music, so if it is that, it is fair game, as well as Nashville or current events," he said in an interview with Underwood on Thursday. "It's worth talking about anything like that that people will relate to." The CMA Awards air live on ABC

Suge Knight, Kanye can't mediate shooting lawsuit

MIAMI (AP)—A mediation session meant to resolve a lawsuit filed by rap mogul Marion "Suge" (shug) Knight against hip-hop star Kanye West was not successful. Knight's attorney, Marc Brumer, says the two sides did not reach an agreement during Thursday's meeting in Miami, which West attended by phone. The attorney says the case will likely go to trial. Knight is seeking more than \$1 million in damages from West and his companies. Knight was shot in the leg at a 2005 Miami Beach party hosted by West, whom Knight blames for lax security. The shooter has never been identified, and the case is unsolved.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg did not raise any issues about Brown's progress during the brief hearing.

"You're doing very well on probation," Schnegg told Brown. "You're doing a great job."

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The judge said Brown had consistently worked to satisfy his six-month community labor

Teen gets silent treatment from her dad's new wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl living with my grandmother. My mom died when I was 7 and my father is now remarried. He and my stepmom have two children together.

My problem is my stepmother and I don't get along. I try to be friendly, but she hardly speaks to me or my grandmother. I understand that some people are quiet by nature and I am one of them, but my grandmother and I agree that her behavior is rude—especially because we have done nothing to provoke it.

I sometimes get the feeling my stepmother doesn't want me to see my father. Every time he comes to visit at my grandmother's she calls, and then he has to leave.

My grandmother and I love their two children and they have come to recognize us. However, we don't get to see them very often. I believe my stepmother may be the reason for this as well.

What can we do to improve the situation? My grandmother has spoken to Dad, but things haven't gotten any better. I'm afraid to say anything because I know things could be worse. What's your advice?

SILENT TEEN IN NORTH CAROLINA



Dear Abby

DEAR SILENT TEEN: If your grandmother has already spoken to your dad, there is nothing you can do to improve the situation. The ball is in your father's court.

The problem isn't you or anything you have or haven't done. Your father married a woman who appears to be possessive, insecure and unable to empathize with anyone she can't control. You are a reminder that your father had a wife and a life before she came into it, and she views that as a threat. Your father could straighten her out—but it appears she holds the power in their relationship.

It's time you spoke to him about your feelings directly. Hearing it from you may have more impact than what your grandmother is able to convey. If that doesn't work, you have my sympathy.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Cassie," who is 23, moved out to live with her fiancé. My house is now truly empty. I have two sons who have been on their own for a while. Cassie was the last to fly the coop.

I am so sad. I can't bear to even go into her room. It is so quiet. We didn't exactly have the closest relationship. I tried, but she wanted her independence. It hurt, but isn't that what a parent has to do with her kids?

Now that Cassie's gone, she won't answer calls or messages—nothing. I saw her at her place of work the other day and she barely acknowledged me. She claims she is "happy now" and really doesn't miss me. She says hurtful things and makes fun of me because I am so sappy and emotional.

How do parents handle these situations? I don't work because I'm not able to. I know I should go out and do volunteer work. I do go to the gym, but I'm much younger than the crowd there. I don't have many close friends. What do empty-nester moms do? I know Cassie is insensitive, but talking it out with her won't help. She is who she is.

HURTING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HURTING: OK, you say you don't have many close friends and can't work—but you are well enough that you can go to a gym and volunteer. Now it's time for YOU to "fly the coop."

The way your daughter is treating you is beyond insensitive—it's cruel. Instead of being afraid to go into her room you should paint it, redecorate it and rent it. Get out, volunteer, take dancing lessons, join whatever social groups there are in a 50-mile radius. The less time you spend at home the less time you will have to grieve.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



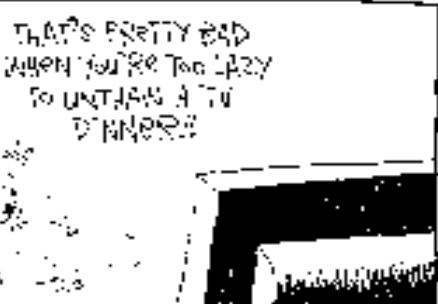
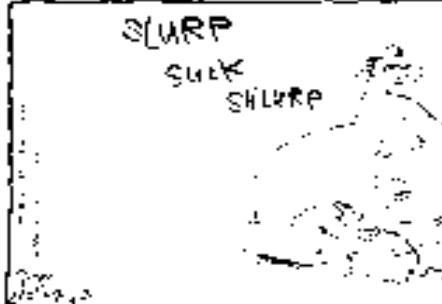
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

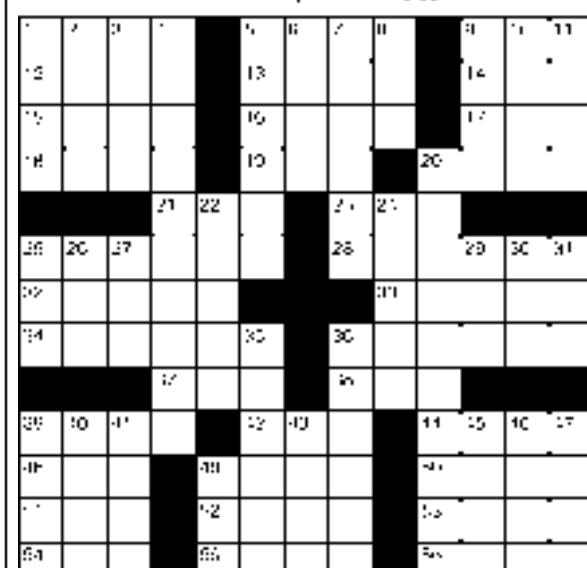
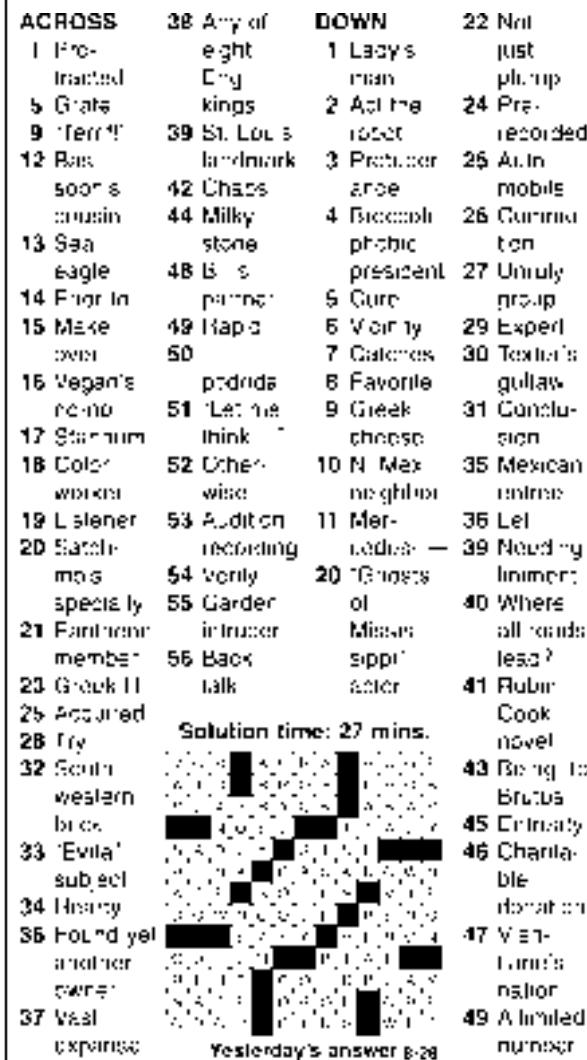
The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5858, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time, phone: 1-800-14-King Features Service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

LeAnn Rimes, 28; Carly Pope, 30; Jason Priestley, 41; Shania Twain, 45

Happy Birthday: You are on a rollercoaster ride that can lead to greatness or throw you off-guard. Every move you make will be crucial to the outcome. It is necessary to be in control at all times and to make decisions based on facts and figures to get you where you want to go. This cannot be a year of chance. Your numbers are 5, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Problems with the way things are presented to you will arise in both your personal and professional dealings. You can advance but only if you cover all the material that is expected of you. Research and preparation will pay off. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plan to have fun. Dwelling on what you didn't get done will not help matters. You need to look forward, not back. You will learn something valuable from someone you encounter through a friend. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for alternative ways to entertain someone you love. Your spontaneity will capture attention and impress someone who can offer you favors. You'll be emotional, so stay busy. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Refrain from reacting to something too quickly—it may not be easily reversed. Not everyone will have your best interests at heart, especially when it pertains to love, children or an older family member. Don't let anyone push you around. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Count your blessings and work long and hard to complete what needs to be done.

You have plenty to gain by putting in extra time.

Your own small business will show some potential and that will encourage you to diversify what you have to offer. ☀️☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a good idea you have and work it until it amounts to something. A change will do you good, so don't hesitate to make a move or relocate for the weekend. An opportunity you come across will help you make a decision. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's best to listen to the arguments being made to help you get a better view of what's going on. You can avoid a terrible mistake when it comes to both personal and professional partnerships. Don't lead someone on. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, passionate and strong-willed. You don't like change and you strive to keep the peace. You are bound by tradition.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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detours and frustration. It's best to stay put. There is money heading your way. ☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time with an old friend. Looking back and sharing memories will remind you of ideas and goals you can still put into play. With a little streamlining and updating, you could turn something you once enjoyed doing into a lucrative endeavor. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's best to listen to the arguments being made to help you get a better view of what's going on. You can avoid a terrible mistake when it comes to both personal and professional partnerships. Don't lead someone on. ☀️☀️

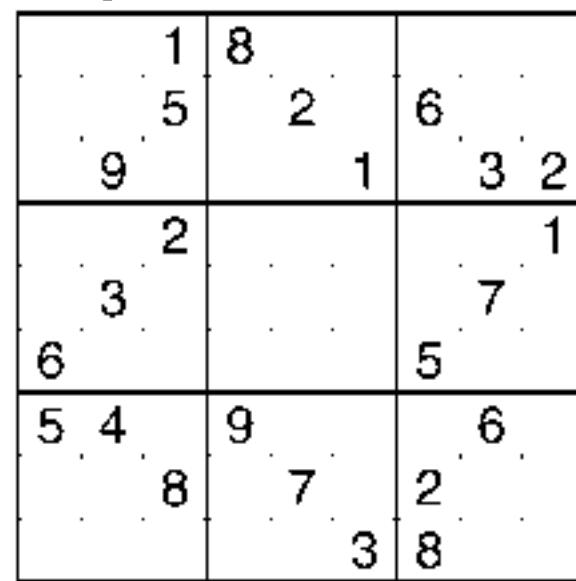
Birthday Baby: You are emotional, passionate and strong-willed. You don't like change and you strive to keep the peace. You are bound by tradition.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



16 Faculty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	1	8	3	7	9	5	4
3	7	6	4	2	9	6	1	8
8	9	4	5	6	1	7	3	2
4	5	2	7	9	6	3	8	1
1	3	9	7	5	8	4	7	6
6	8	7	3	1	4	5	2	9
5	4	3	9	8	7	6	1	2
9	1	8	0	7	5	2	4	3
7	2	6	1	4	3	8	9	5

WONDERWORD

By DAVID DUCLET

HOW TO PLAY: Crossword puzzles are solved by filling in the empty squares with letters that fit the words both horizontally and vertically. Letters can be placed in any square that is empty except for the ones that are shaded black.

CLUES: Clues are numbered and give the length of the word and its position in the grid.

Solve in 6 hours

S	T	A	F	P	T	I	G	N	I	N	T	V	E	G
O	U	S	E	L	B	A	H	E	M	N	N	S		
C	O	C	E	A	Y	A	D	I	R	F	I	T	A	
I	G	R	O	U	P	S	T	E	R	D	K	N	E	T
A	N	O	K	N	G	A	G	T	Y	A	F	T	P	I
I	A	O	G	R	V	U	V	M	M	M	B	E	R	
I	H	D	O	E	E	Y	H	L	E	R	A	D		
Z	C	O	R	A	N	N	R	S	T	G	M	A	I	A
F	I	N	R	T	T	R	S	O	I	A	N	Y		
I	O	O	S	S	E	R	D	I	A	I	G	I	M	G
Y	I	A	H	M	C	D	G	I	N	I	E	R		
I	H	S	R	E	T	N	U	O	C	I	E	N	E	
E	E	R	E	S	T	A	E	B	F	O	T	N		
N	N	S	N	V	I	T	A	N	T	O				
D	I	O	P	S	E	S	A	M	I	N	G	I	E	

By Karen Clutter, General Assignment Writer, Penn Energy
 President, Entertainment, Family, Sports, Food, Travel, Dining,
 and Game Groups, Special Assignment Writer, Internet, Media,
 George Mason University, Maggic, Niche, Relationship, Reg
 Ida, Food, Travel, Family, Sports, Feature, Special Assignment
 Writer, Travel, Travel Writer
 Yesterday's Answer: Scissors

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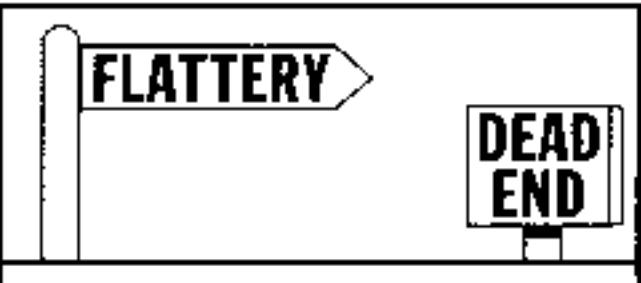
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Woods shoots 65 for his best round of the year



PARAMUS,
N.J. (AP)—Yes,
that really was
Tiger Woods'
name atop the
leaderboard.

In his first tournament since his divorce, Woods finally looked like the No. 1 player in the world Thursday at the Barclays when he opened with a 6-under 65, his lowest score of the year, to share the lead with Vaughn Taylor. It was his first time leading after any round on the PGA Tour since the Tour Championship last September.

"It's exciting to hit the ball flush again," Woods said. "It's something I've been missing all year."

He didn't miss much at Ridgewood Country Club. Woods hit all but one fairway and putted for birdie on all but two holes. And while he hit his driver only twice, they were two of his best shots of the day—including on the 291-yard fifth hole, where his drive landed pin-high and settled 15 feet away.

Was it just a coincidence that his game showed up so soon after his marriage was dissolved?

"I can't really say that's the case," he said. "As far as golf, it was nice to put it together."

Woods and Taylor both played in the morning, when the greens were smooth and the conditions were only breezy. They had a one-shot lead over Adam Scott, Brian Gay and Ryan Palmer. Scott played in the afternoon, where a gust of wind played tricks on him at the final hole and led to bogey.

Scott endured a long day in the pro-am Wednesday and didn't think Ridgewood would serve up a 65 to anyone.



Tiger Woods hits from a bunker on the 11th hole during the first round of The Barclays golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010, in Paramus, N.J. AP

"Seeing some good scores this morning made me change my mind," he said.

That one of those scores belonged to Woods was hardly a surprise.

"For him to piece things together can't be too hard," Scott said. "He's very good."

The last time Woods' was atop the leaderboard after any round of any tournament was when he won the Australian Masters on Nov. 15, less than two weeks before his life caved in on him—the car crash after Thanksgiving night, details of

adultery, five months away from

the game and a broken marriage, which officially ended Monday.

His golf hasn't been very good either, which is why Woods began the FedEx Cup playoffs

112th out of 125 players who qualified. He was so low down the list that he was first to tee off under a sunny sky at Ridgewood, the first time he's done that in his PGA Tour career.

It worked to his advantage.

"With fresh greens, everybody in our group was making putts on the front nine," Woods said. "You had to get it today."

And he did. The 65 was his lowest score in 46 rounds, dat-

ing to a 62 in the BMW Championship last year. Taylor grinned when asked if he was surprised to see Woods' name on the leaderboard.

"Somewhat, you know?" he said. "It's good to see him back up top."

With sunshine and a light breeze, conditions were ripe for scoring. Palmer had a chance to join the leaders until a three-putt bogey on the 18th put him at 66. Even though the greens became bumpy in the afternoon after so much foot traffic, the course was soft enough to allow for good scores. There were

14 players who shot 67, including Davis Love III, defending champion Heath Slocum and Stewart Cink.

Phil Mickelson, with his ninth chance in the last four months to replace Woods at No. 1 in the world, made only one birdie for a 72.

For Woods, the timing could not have been better.

Only the top 100 in the FedEx Cup standings advance to the second round of the playoffs next week in the Deutsche Bank Championship. Woods at least needs to make the cut, then finish in the middle of the pack. He

had a better solution.

"I figure if I win, I should be OK," Woods said.

For one of the few times this year, he gave himself ample reason to believe that. Woods opened with a 3-wood down the middle of the fairway, a pitching wedge to 15 feet below the hole and a birdie putt.

More followed, even on the par 5s, which have given Woods fits in recent months.

He mostly used his 3-wood off the tee, figuring that was enough to reach the corners without having to take on the tops of trees that line the fairways. Plus, with saturated conditions from rain earlier in the week, tour officials allowed players to lift, clean and place their golf balls in the fairway.

"With the ball in hand, it's much more important to hit the fairways," Woods said. It was the first time since the 2006 British Open at Royal Liverpool that he hit his 3-wood off the tee on every par 5.

The two times he hit the driver turned out to be two of his best shots of the day.

After the tee shot on the par-4 fifth—only six players hit that green off the tee—Woods used driver into the wind on the 18th, hitting it so well that he had only a 7-iron into the green. He hit a punch shot to just over 6 feet for a final birdie.

"It was just a low, bullet fade right around the corner," he said. "It was just the shape of the shot, because it was different than most of the 3-woods I played all day. I didn't hold a single 3-wood. I was turning them over. Now, the shape of the driver in the complete opposite direction ... and I hadn't hit a driver since the fifth hole."

overcome any size disadvantage with their pressure defense, trying to create turnovers that get Kevin Durant and Derrick Rose out on fast breaks.

Teams that can control the pace and get the ball inside can hurt the Americans. Greece managed it for a half Wednesday before the Americans ran away in the second of their 87-59 victory. Argentina, with Luis Scola and Fabricio Oberto, and Group B opponent Brazil, with Anderson Varejao and Tiago Splitter, have front lines that will be tough for the U.S. to match.

But if the Americans are able to get out and run, they're confident they won't stop until they've reached the gold medal platform.

"From top to bottom everybody can play and score the ball and I think we're really defending well," guard Stephen Curry said. "We have our leaders, our go-to guys with K.D. and Derrick Rose, those kinds of guys who are definitely getting us going out of the gate. Then the backup lineup coming in and not missing a step. I think we have everything covered."



ISTANBUL
(AP)—Kobe Bryant towers over a city street as he dribbles a basketball in the cover photo of a pamphlet distributed earlier this year to promote the world championships.

After offseason knee surgery, Bryant isn't doing much dribbling at all this summer.

Even before announcing he was leaving Cleveland for South Beach, it was obvious LeBron James wouldn't be going to Turkey.

Nor did any other players who helped the United States win the gold medal in the 2008 Olympics. In their place is what's been called the "B Team," a group of second choices who are here only because the guys with bigger names had better things to do.

And they're aware of what's being said about them.

"We love to compete. We're professionals," forward Lamar Odom said. "One of the best things about playing sports is being competitive. When some-

No trace of Beijing for US basketball in Turkey

one says you can't, it makes you more motivated."

Now the B Team will try to do what the A-listers couldn't four years ago: win the world's biggest basketball tournament.

The Americans dominate the Olympics but can't seem to get the world championships right.

They've won the tournament just

three times, none since 1994, and left Japan in 2006 with a bronze medal despite a team that was

loaded with stars such as James, Dwyane Wade, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul, Chris Bosh and Carmelo Anthony.

The team that remains may still be good enough to be considered the favorite, but is vulnerable enough to make this event more wide open than the Olympics two years ago.

Spain and Greece, who met in the championship game in 2006, plus Argentina head the list of other contenders for the Naismith trophy and the automatic berth into the 2012 Olympics in London.

The tournament starts Saturday

in four cities in Turkey. Group A is in Kayseri, Group B in Istanbul, Group C in the capital city of Ankara, where the hosts will play, and Group D in Izmir. Six teams are in each group, and four will survive pool play to advance to the single-elimination round starting Sept. 4 in Istanbul.

The championship game is scheduled for Sept. 12, and the Americans expect to be playing in it for the first time in 16 years.

"We just want to go out there and win," forward Andre Igoudala said. "I think we're really hungry and we're really excited to have the opportunity to play for the USA and we want to bring back home the gold."

So does Spain, a veteran team that returns much of its core as it goes for a repeat. Greece, which stunned the U.S. four years ago in the semifinals, has a deep collection of physical players—and will need to rely on it after Antonis Fotsis and Sofoklis Schortsanitis were each suspended two games by FIBA on

Thursday for their part in last week's brawl in an exhibition game against Serbia.

The Americans beat both the Spaniards and Greeks on the road in warm-up games, sending them to Turkey with confidence soaring after some struggles in their first two outings.

"We passed the other tests and now we are just ready to get into it," forward Rudy Gay said.

But there are still concerns for a team with a lack of size and experience. The 6-foot-10 Odom is now the starting center on a squad with only one 7-footer and with six players age 22 or younger.

Chauncey Billups, the veteran of the team at 33, was asked what still concerned the coaches the most.

"More than anything, I think it's still rebounding the ball and going at a high level," Billups said. "Still knowing that we are a small team, rebounding, and sometimes we get a little wacky and turn the ball over a little too much. Those

are our main two concerns. But those are the things that we can get a little better control of after playing more and more together, knowing each other more."

The U.S. isn't the only team that arrived in Turkey without its best players. Pau Gasol, the MVP of the 2006 tournament, is resting after three straight trips to the NBA finals with the Los Angeles Lakers. Argentina is missing Manu Ginobili, who stayed home with newborn twins. Theo Papaloukas, the point guard who quarterbacked the upset over the Americans, is no longer suiting up for the Greeks.

Even non-contenders such as Germany (Dirk Nowitzki), France (Tony Parker) and Australia (Andrew Bogut) are without top NBA players this summer.

The Americans seem best equipped to handle the with-drawals, fielding the most athletic squad in the 24-team tournament. They will look to

Astros complete 4-game sweep of Phillies



PHILADELPHIA

(AP)—The Houston Astros completed their first four-game sweep at Philadelphia in 11 years by winning 5-1 in the National League on Thursday, putting another dent in the Phillies' playoff ambitions.

Houston starter Wandy Rodriguez (10-12) pitched seven sharp innings, allowing only one run and striking out six. He has a 1.79 ERA since June 24.

Carlos Lee homered for the Astros, who did sweep in the Phillies over four games in Houston last year, but hadn't done so in Philadelphia since 1999.

Philadelphia, NL pennant winners two years running, fell three games behind first-placed Atlanta in the NL East and trail San Francisco by half a game in the wild-card standings, with 35 to play.

The Astros are the only NL team with a winning record (30-16) against Philadelphia since 2004.

Phillies starter Kyle Kendrick (8-7) allowed four runs in six innings.

Marlins 11, Mets 4

In New York, Hanley Ramirez feasted on New York pitching yet again to power Florida to victory.

Ramirez hit a two-run homer and finished with three hits, going 10 for 15 over the series. He's been a pain for the Mets all season, driving in 14 runs and scoring 15 times against them.

Marlins rookie Logan Morrison reached base four times, including a two-run double during the seven-run sixth inning. Florida starter Anibal Sanchez (11-8) got the win despite allowing four runs over five sloppy innings.

New York stranded 12 runners and lost shortstop Jose Reyes to a muscle strain in the second inning.

Mets starter Jonathon Niese (8-6) matched his career high with eight strikeouts but blew a 4-0 lead and left in the sixth. He allowed more runs (seven) than hits (five).

Diamondbacks 11, Padres 5

In San Diego, Ian Kennedy struck out a career-high 12 to steer Arizona to a comfortable win over San Diego.

Coming off a start in which he allowed a career-worst 10 hits in five



AP

Houston Astros relief pitcher Fernando Abad reacts after the last out in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Philadelphia, Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010.

innings, Kennedy (8-9) pitched seven scoreless innings and retired his final 10 batters, five by strikeouts.

Arizona's Stephen Drew finished a torrid series by hitting a three-run homer and an RBI double.

The Padres trailed 11-0 going into the eighth before being spared their worst loss of the season, thanks to Adrian Gonzalez's grand slam.

San Diego's division lead dipped to six games over idle San Francisco.

The Diamondbacks, who had lost their previous 10 games in San Diego, did most of their damage against Padres starter Kevin Correia (10-9), who allowed nine runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Dodgers 7, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Casey Blake hit a two-run homer to help Los Angeles to victory over Milwaukee, and a three-game sweep.

Six Dodgers pitchers combined to limit the Brewers to two hits. Reliever Ronald Belisario (2-1) took the win.

Leading 4-1, the Dodgers broke the game open in the seventh with three runs off Yovani Gallardo (11-6) and reliever Todd Coffey. It was their first three-game sweep at Milwaukee since 2003.

The Brewers lost their fourth straight overall.

Tigers 7, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Jhonny Peralta and Gerald Laird homered, and Max Scherzer became a 10-game winner for the first time as the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

Peralta hit a three-run drive and Laird added a two-run shot in Detroit's six-run fourth inning. It's the eighth time in eight road games that the Tigers have hit two or more home runs. They've hit 19 in that span.

Toronto's Jose Bautista hit his major league-leading 41st home run, the 100th homer of his career.

Bautista's homer was the only run allowed by Scherzer (10-9), who gave up six hits in eight innings, matching his career high. He walked one and struck out eight.

Indians 3, Athletics 2

At Cleveland, Matt LaPorta hit a go-ahead two-run homer to help Justin Masterson (5-12) win for only the second time in 10 starts as Cleveland broke a five-game losing streak.

It came on "Puppypalooza Night," a promotion in which fans bought tickets for their pet dogs.

The Indians doggedly clawed back to avoid a three-game sweep, snap a five-game losing streak and win for the fourth time in 17 games.

LaPorta hit the first pitch thrown to him from Vin Mazzaro (6-6) with two outs in the sixth inning to put Cleveland ahead 3-2. Trevor Crowe lined a two-out single to left. Then LaPorta, 0 for 5 in his career against the right-hander, broke a 4 for 44 (.091) slump with his eighth homer.

Nationals 11, Cardinals 10, 13 innings

In Washington, Albert Pujols hit his 400th career home run, but came out on the losing side as Washington edged St. Louis in 13 innings.

The 30-year-old Pujols homered leading off the fourth, becoming the third-youngest player to reach 400 homers behind Alex Rodriguez (29) and Ken Griffey Jr. (30).

In the bottom of the 13th, Nyjer Morgan was hit by a pitch from Blake Hawksworth (4-8) while squaring to

bunt leading off the inning, then advanced to third on Alberto Gonzalez's one-out single. With the infield in, Ian Desmond bounced a grounder up the middle to drive in the winning run.

Doug Slaten (4-1) took the win with a scoreless inning for the Nationals, who broke out of their offensive doldrums with 16 hits. Washington had been shut out three times in the previous week, and the victory ended a four-game losing streak.

The Cardinals had scored four in the top of the ninth to take a 10-8 lead, but Roger Bernadina's two-run homer sent the game to extra innings.

St. Louis has lost three straight, falling four games behind NL Central leader Cincinnati, and 1-1/2 behind wild-card holder San Francisco.

Twins 6, Rangers 4

At Arlington, Texas, Francisco Liriano allowed two runs and five hits over seven innings, and Delmon Young hit a three-run homer as Minnesota beat Texas to avoid a four-game sweep.

Liriano (12-7) struck out six and walked one to capture his sixth straight decision and snap Texas' four-game winning streak.

Cliff Lee fell to 2-5 in his 10 starts for Texas since he was acquired from Seattle in a trade on July 9.

Texas has won only three of those 10 starts.

White Sox 8, Orioles 0

At Chicago, Edwin Jackson struck out 10 in eight dominant innings and Alex Rios hit a two-run homer as Chicago beat Baltimore for its first series victory in three weeks.

Jackson allowed three hits and walked two, improving to 2-0 with a sparkling 0.96 ERA in four starts since he was acquired from Arizona on July 30. The right-hander, who threw a no-hitter on June 25 at Tampa Bay, has struck out 34 in 28 innings with Chicago.

The White Sox ended a streak of five consecutive series losses, winning a set for the first time since they took three of four at Detroit from Aug. 3-5. They had lost seven of their last 10 games and 11 of 16 overall.

Federer could meet Soderling in US Open quarters



NEW YORK

(AP)—If Roger Federer is going to reach a seventh consecutive U.S. Open title match, he might need to get past the man who ended his Grand Slam semifinal streak.

Five-time U.S. Open champion Federer was given a possible quarterfinal against two-time French Open runner-up Robin Soderling in Thursday's draw. The No. 5-seeded Soderling upset Federer in the quarterfinals in Paris this year, stopping Federer's record run of reaching at least the semifinals at 23 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments.

"I'm motivated to do well because I love New York, I love playing in Arthur Ashe (Stadium)," Federer said. "If I couldn't get motivated by this stadium and this city, then I'd have some issues."

The other men's matchups in the quarterfinals could be No. 1-seeded

Rafael Nadal against No. 8 Fernando Verdasco, two-time major finalist Andy Murray against Wimbledon runner-up Tomas Berdych, and No. 3 Novak Djokovic against No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko or No. 9 Andy Roddick.

The top-seeded woman, 2009 runner-up Caroline Wozniacki, could face 2006 champion Maria Sharapova in the fourth round and 2004 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the quarterfinals.

Other possible women's quarterfinals set up Thursday are defending champion Kim Clijsters against French Open runner-up Sam Stosur, 2000-01 U.S. Open winner Venus Williams against French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, and 2008 U.S. Open finalist Jelena Jankovic against Wimbledon runner-up Vera Zvonareva.

"I know if I play well that I can beat anybody out there," said Clijsters, who also won the 2005 Open, "so that's what I'm going to try to achieve."

Murray, hoping to become the first British man since 1936 to win a Grand Slam title, could meet No. 20-seeded Sam Querrey of the United States in the fourth round. Another American, Wimbledon marathon man John Isner, is seeded 18th and also is in that quarter of the draw.

In the semifinals, Murray was drawn to meet Nadal, who lost in that round in New York each of the past two years and is trying to complete a career Grand Slam by winning the U.S. Open for the first time.

Federer was drawn to meet Djokovic or Roddick in the semifinals. Federer beat Djokovic in the 2007 U.S. Open final and the 2008 and 2009 semifinals.

"Over the last three years here, I've only lost to one player—Federer—and that gives me enough reason to believe I can go far this year," Djokovic said, "because I like the courts, I like the atmosphere here. I just like the tourna-

ment - it's suitable to my game, and to my personality."

Federer could face another familiar opponent in the third round: 2001 U.S. Open and 2002 Wimbledon champion Leyton Hewitt. Federer beat Hewitt in the 2004 U.S. Open final, part of a 15-match, head-to-head winning streak for Federer—which ended when Hewitt beat him in the final of a grass-court tournament at Halle, Germany, in June.

"I know my way around New York so well. The center court is so familiar," Federer said. "The fans have always been so great. They've always been behind me, and that's always so key, and I hope it's going to be, again, the same this year."

He lost in the 2009 U.S. Open final to Juan Martin del Potro, who—like No. 1-ranked Serena Williams—previously withdrew from this year's tournament, having not recovered fully from surgery. Del Potro's wrist was hurt; Williams cut her foot shortly after winning

Wimbledon, although she hasn't explained exactly what happened.

"It would be great to have Serena compete," Clijsters said, "but that's sports, and that's life."

Williams' older sister Venus, who is seeded No. 3, could face an intriguing matchup in the third round against No. 32-seeded Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria. Pironkova has won two of her previous three matches against Venus Williams, including a straight-set upset in the Wimbledon quarterfinals June 29.

That was the last match Williams played on tour; she sprained her left kneecap in early August, forcing her to withdraw from hard-court tournaments at Cincinnati and Montreal.

The U.S. Open begins Monday, and Williams will have gone more than two months without a match by the time she meets her first-round opponent, Roberta Vinci of Italy, who is 1-7 for her career at Flushing Meadows.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	49	.614	—
Tampa Bay	78	49	.614	—
Boston	73	55	.570	5 1/2
Toronto	66	61	.520	12
Baltimore	45	83	.352	33 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	73	55	.570	—
Chicago	69	58	.543	3 1/2
Detroit	64	64	.500	9
Kansas City	54	73	.425	18 1/2
Cleveland	51	76	.402	21 1/2

West Division

Texas	72	55	.567	—
Oakland	63	63	.500	8 1/2
Los Angeles	63	65	.492	9 1/2
Seattle	50	77	.394	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

Atlanta	73	54	.575	—
Philadelphia	70	57	.551	3
Florida	64	62	.508	8 1/2
New York	63	64	.496	10
Washington	54	74	.422	19 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	73	54	.575	—
St. Louis	68	57	.544	4
Milwaukee	59	68	.465	14
Houston	58	69	.457	15
Chicago	54	74	.422	19 1/2
Pittsburgh	43	84	.339	30

West Division

San Diego	76	50	.603	—
San Francisco	71	57	.555	6
Colorado	66	60	.524	10
Los Angeles	66	62	.516	11
Arizona	50	78	.391	27

Yesterday's Games

Houston 5, Philadelphia 1
L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 1
Arizona 11, San Diego 5
Washington 11, St. Louis 10, 13 innings
Florida 11, N.Y. Mets 4
Cleveland 3, Oakland 2
Detroit 7, Toronto 1
Minnesota 6, Texas 4
Chicago White Sox 8, Baltimore 0

BARCLAYS SCORES

PARAMUS, New Jersey (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$7.5 million The Barclays golf tournament, played at the 7,319-yard, par-71 Ridgewood Country Club:

FIRST ROUND

Tiger Woods	31-34-65
Vaughn Taylor	33-32-65
Ryan Palmer	28-38-66
Brian Gay	34-32-66
Adam Scott	33-33-66
Davis Love III	32-35-67
Camilo Villegas	34-33-67
Jason Day	33-34-67
Heath Slocum	34-33-67
Chris Couch	33-34-67
John Senden	33-34-67
Jonathan Byrd	32-35-67
D.J. Trahan	34-33-67
Brandt Snedeker	33-34-67
Scott Verplank	34-33-67
Ben Crane	33-34-67
Stewart Cink	33-34-67
Pat Perez	31-36-67
Scott Piercy	33-34-67
Chad Collins	32-36-68
Josh Teater	32-36-68
J.J. Henry	33-35-68
Jimmy Walker	35-33-68
K.J. Choi	34-34-68
Matt Kuchar	33-35-68
Rory Sabbatini	33-35-68
Angel Cabrera	33-35-68
David Duval	34-34-68
Jeff Overton	35-33-68
Rory McIlroy	33-35-68
Charley Hoffman	34-34-68
Tim Petrovic	31-37-68
Martin Laird	35-34-69
Sean O'Hair	36-33-69
Nick Watney	33-36-69
Vijay Singh	32-37-69
Michael Sim	34-35-69

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**LOCAL SCORES****UFO STANDINGS**

Open Division	
MDX Chow Queen	4 0
MAFEA-Ali'i	4 0
SIP-Mobil	2 2
Cavite	1 2
SIS-Marianas Wireless	1 3
NMBA-Island Apparel	0 2
Bayani-Soul Jazz	0 3

MASTERS DIVISION

VisMinda-Kids Cove	2 0
Cabalen-Wings Travel	2 0
MAFEA	1 2
MDX-PTC	0 1
Laguna-Moonlight	0 2

FR. MANNY**From Page 28**

Nestor Siruelo (78); Jess Yumul (78); Joseph Fernandez (79); Mando Guban (79); Mike Cruz (80); George Sablan Sr. (80); Gil Faler (83); Jhun Calma (84); Paul Bea (86); Raffy Piamonte (86); Ruben Avendano (95); and Henry Cruz (95). Established in 1993, Fil-Ta-

ga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players. A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments. (Mark Rabago)

Locals, Primos, CK Destroyers roll over opponents

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The visiting Locals edged Right There! in a close battle of Buddies A teams, while the Primos went into Charlie's Bar and shot down the Snipers and the CK Destroyers went on the road and beat the Bud Brothers during last Monday's Saipan Electronic Dart Association's A Division matchups.

Local 9, Right There! 8

Home team Right There!'s Joel Linaogo, Rommel Chavez, and

Jun Visaya won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to give their team an early lead. Then Right There! won both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games to extend their lead. The Locals' Alfred Hocog, Greg Sasamoto, and Robert Dela Cruz came back and won three of the four Singles Snipers matches and both teams won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket. Both teams won a pair of Singles 310 Double In/Double Out games, but Chavez's win clinched the victory for Right There! even though the Locals won the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out games.

Check-in time for this week-

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its August Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Aug. 29, with Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol's net 66 the score to beat at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

pointer to stay alive and fouled Abuel to stop the clock. Again, Abuel went only 1-for-2 from the stripe and after his miss, Bernardo grabbed the offensive board for his second putback.

MDX got off to a jackrabbit start behind Abuel's hot shooting from downtown. Abuel hit three triples and scored 16 points for MDX's 35-21 lead.

SIP moved within eight in the last three minutes of the second quarter, 42-50, but Abuel anchored a 12-0 windup, nailing a triple, a short jumper, and two layups to pad the lead to 20 at the break, 62-42.

MDX increased the lead in the third, forcing SIP to make rallies on several occasions and that had been the story of the night with the latter launching repeated comeback bids only to be halted by the former's timely baskets.

SIP scored another two-

related to suspension of members may also take place.

Once the Congress is completed, White and the rest of the delegates will have a chance to watch the games in the FIBA World Championships.

The quadrennial caging will have 24 teams vying for the coveted championship, including tournament favorite and Beijing Olympic gold medalist U.S. National Team.

also went perfect at the plate, going 4-for-4 and 3-for-3, respectively.

Cert/No Zone 21, DPW 0

Cert/No Zone posted the easiest win of the night after shutting out the Department of Public Works, 21-0.

Cert/No Zone scored six runs apiece in the first two innings and then tallied nine runs in the third with its six batters recording three runs each.

Ned Norita had two homers and five RBIs, and went 3-for-3 at the plate. Bruce Norita also

Primos 12, Snipers 5

Lionel Sanchez, John P. Sablan, and Allan Cabrera of the visiting Primos won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches to help jumpstart their team. The Primos then took both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games and both teams won a pair of Singles Sniper matches. The Primos then went on to sweep both Wild and Crazy Cricket matches for the automatic win. Sanchez and Sablan added two Singles 301 Double In/Double Out bonus wins for the Primos and their crew rubbed it in at the end and took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

bogeyed the first hole, but he quickly made that up with birdies in the second and sixth holes to finish with a 1-under par 35 in the front nine.

He then dominated the back nine, walking away with three consecutive birdies in holes No. 16, 17, and 18 to shoot the amazingly low score. When Wabol's two handicap was factored in,

Astros complete 4-game sweep of Phillies

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Woods shoots 65 for his best round of the year

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

White joins Oceania officials in FIBA Congress

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president and Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael White left for Turkey last Tuesday to attend the FIBA World Congress in Istanbul.

White is part of the FIBA Oceania delegation to the Congress, joining representatives from Fiji, Guam, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Australia, Papua



New Guinea, and New Zealand. Leading the group is FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith and Oceania representative Barbara Wheardon of New Zealand.

Also on the delegation is Australia's Bob Elphinston, who will conclude his four-year term as president of FIBA World. At the end of his term with the world governing body of basketball, the Australian Elphinston will then start

serving as president of FIBA Oceania after he was elected for that position during the FIBA Oceania Congress last year on Saipan.

At the FIBA World Congress, which will run from Sept. 4 to 6 at the Swissôtel the Bosphorus in Istanbul, White and company will be joined by representatives of FIBA's 213-member national federations.

Each member federation will then be entitled to choose one voting delegate who will participate in the selec-

tion of the new FIBA World president, and treasurer, upon the proposal of the FIBA World secretary general.

At the Congress, there might be a ratification of the composition of the Cent-

See **WHITE** on Page 27

BANMI secretary general Michael White, seen here delivering a speech during the 2009 FIBA Oceania Congress on Saipan, will join FIBA Oceania officials in attending the FIBA World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey next month.

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MDX, MAFEA stay perfect

Fr. Manny wins August Ace



Fr. Manny Corcuera had his prayers answered last Sunday when he won the Taga Golf Association August Ace of the Month Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The veteran golfer shot a gross score of 80, built around 10 pars, following a 41 in the front nine and a 39 in the back.

Fr. Manny, however, lowered that score to a net 64 by virtue of his 16 handicap. Adony Matutino finished second, a stroke behind the priest with his net 65. Matutino fired a gross of 88 but had a handicap of 23.

Third place went to Larry Pascual (net 68), while Richard Atalig, Freddie Cataluna, and Alsree Chiong were all tied from fourth to sixth place with identical net scores of 70.

A total of 21 Fil-Taga members took part in the monthly tournament. The rest of the field, with their net scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Ted Malaran (72); Jacinto Ramones (75); John Matsumoto (77); See **FR. MANNY** on Page 27



Fr. Manny Corcuera



MDX-Chow Queen's Dave Sablan goes up for a reverse layup against SIP-Mobil's Jun Estolas, right, during their game in the UFO caging Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion MDX-Chow Queen and MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt kept their unbeaten records, following separate wins in the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

MAFEA improved to a 4-0 record after crushing Samahang Ilonggo sa Saipan-Marianas Wireless in the first game, 108-87; while MDX repulsed Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Mobil in the second game, 110-102. The defending champion also notched its fourth win in as many games to share the open division lead with MAFEA.

SIP dropped to a 2-2 record, absorbing back-to-back losses, while SIS fell to a 1-3 mark.

It was a frustrating night for SIP, which trailed from the start of the game and no matter how hard it tried to re-

See **MDX** on Page 27

CPA stuns DCCA in softball opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority got off to rousing start in the 2010 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League after nailing a 12-2 upset win against defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

CPA played DCCA in the second game during the opening day of the 19-team league and needed only five innings to notch a win via 10-run mercy rule.

Dave Camacho Jr. went 3-for-3 at bat for CPA, hitting a three-run hom-

See **CPA** on Page 27